

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Audit #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:**

**MAIN HEADING:**

**REGULATION (Heading):** By-laws

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 4(F)(5) Powers of the Board

**Section:** 4

**Reference (sub-section):** F

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 5 Page 79 in Annual Guide

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

(5) Review and approval of the financial statements, annual reports, and financial and control policies, and selection of the USA Hockey’s independent auditors.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

(5) Review and approval of the financial statements, annual reports, and financial and control policies. ~~and selection of the USA Hockey’s independent auditors.~~

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** The stricken language conflicts with the language in 6(B)(4)(b) on page 95 of the Annual Guide which gives this responsibility to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has always had the sole responsibility to select a certified public accounting firm.

Submitter: John L. Tobin, Chair, Audit Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Audit Committee			
Finance Committee			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES NO (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: John L. Tobin, Chair, Audit Committee**

**AFFILIATION:**

**EMAIL: usahlegalvp.@gmail.com**

Date submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_ Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: March 21, 2025

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials Section 1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** DISPUTE RESOLUTION, DISCIPLINE, ARBITRATION

**REGULATION (Heading):** Exclusions from Unified Procedure

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** Assault on Game Official

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page 124 - 125

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

Assault on Game Official Assaults on Game Officials are violations of USA Hockey Playing Rules and as such are subject to the provisions for Playing Rules Suspensions. In the event of a match penalty for assault on a game official under Playing Rule 601(e)(1), the offending Party shall be immediately suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity. For penalties assessed under 601(e)(1) that are affirmed after a hearing, the offending Party shall be suspended for not less than one calendar year with one year calendar year probation thereafter. In the case of a match penalty for assault on a game official, the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate, its designated hearing body, or the Junior Council sanctioned league shall exercise original jurisdiction in such matter. NOTE: The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only. Any game official assessing a penalty under Rule 601(e)(1) shall file with his/her USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief a written game report within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident. The District Referee-in-Chief shall immediately investigate the incident and promptly submit a written opinion, together with the game sheets and reports to the applicable Disciplinary Authority, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule. A copy of the Referee-in-Chief's written report and opinion shall be sent by the Disciplinary Authority to the player, team official and game official involved. Annual Guide 125Bylaws Suspensions imposed under this bylaw subsection shall be immediately reported to USA Hockey national office, to the applicable Affiliate Association(s), and the appropriate registrar(s). The Registrar may accept a registration subject to the terms of this suspension.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-strikethrough)

Assault on Game Official Assaults on Game Officials are violations of USA Hockey Playing Rules and as such are subject to the provisions for Playing Rules Suspensions. In the event of a match penalty for assault on a game official under Playing Rule 601(e)(1), the offending Party shall be immediately suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity. ~~For penalties assessed under 601(e)(1) that are affirmed after a hearing, the offending Party shall be suspended for not less than one calendar year with one year calendar year probation thereafter. In the case of a match penalty for assault on a game official, the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate, its designated hearing body, or~~

~~the Junior Council sanctioned league shall exercise original jurisdiction in such matter. NOTE: The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only. Any game official assessing a penalty under Rule 601(e)(1) shall file with his/her USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief a written game report within forty-eight (48) **twenty-four (24)** hours of the incident. The District Referee in Chief shall immediately investigate the incident and promptly submit a written opinion, together with the game sheets and reports to the applicable Disciplinary Authority, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule. Upon receipt of the written game report the District Referee in Chief will then immediately forward this report **to the National Referee-In-Chief who will appoint a national review panel to hold a hearing on the incident. This panel will have thirty (30) days to investigate the incident and conduct a hearing. NOTE: The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only. As part of their findings, the national review panel will submit a written opinion, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule to determine whether rule 601(e)(1) was applied correctly. If the panel determines that this rule was applied correctly the offending party will be suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity for a period of not less than one calendar with one calendar year probation thereafter.** A copy of the Referee-in-Chief's **national review panel's** written report and opinion shall be sent by the Disciplinary Authority to the player, team official and game official involved. Annual Guide 125Bylaws Suspensions imposed under this bylaw subsection shall be immediately reported to USA Hockey national office, to the applicable Affiliate Association(s), and the appropriate registrar(s). The Registrar may accept a registration subject to the terms of this suspension.~~

**At the beginning of the season the National Referee-In-Chief, in conjunction with the Chair of the Youth and Girls Councils, will appoint 5 District Referee's-In-Chiefs, 5 Affiliate Presidents and 5 members from among the Youth and Girls Councils to act as members of any potential national review panels needed for that season. Upon receipt of an incident report for rule 601(e)(1), the National Referee-In-Chief will select one District Referee-In-Chief, one Affiliate President and one Youth or Girls Council member from the group to serve as a members on the national review panel to hear the case. No member of the panel shall be from the district in which the penalized individual(s) was registered.**

#### **INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

The game of ice hockey has seen a significant amount of these penalties being assessed, and consistency in supplemental discipline across the country is needed. Officials must have confidence that USA Hockey supports and protects them. This change is meant to offer a safer environment for officials to work & improve the culture within the game by having not only a consistent baseline penalty for the worst type of abuse but consistent interpretation of the application of the rule.

Submitter: Officials Section, Youth Council, Coaches Section

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Officials Section			
Coaches Section			
Playing Rules Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES NO (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Dave Labuda and Scott Zelkin

**AFFILIATION:** Director, Advanced Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** scottz@usahockey.org

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date

submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 10. Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration

**Section:** D. Exclusions from Unified Procedure

**Reference (sub-section):** (3) Exclusions

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** (b) Playing Rules Suspensions

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**(b) Playing Rules Suspensions**

Any Playing Rules Suspension does not require a hearing except that, in the event of the imposition of a match penalty as defined in the Playing Rules, a hearing must be offered to be held as set forth in the Playing Rules, and the terms and length of the Party’s suspension shall be as set forth in the Playing Rules unless modified or revoked by the hearing panel. Any hearing for a match penalty shall be conducted according to the Unified Procedure; provided that, in the case of a match penalty being imposed in a district or national championship tournament, the hearing will be conducted immediately after the game in question by the on-site USA Hockey personnel. All applicable game scoresheets and referee reports must be presented to the hearing panel and made available to the Party subject to suspension. Any Playing Rule Suspension shall remain in force and effect and be final unless modified or revoked at a hearing, except that if the hearing is not held within 30 days of the incident together with a decision in accordance with the Unified Procedure, the suspended Party shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and thereafter imposing further disciplinary action.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**(b) Playing Rules Suspensions**

Any Playing Rules Suspension does not require a hearing except that, in the event of the imposition of a match penalty as defined in the Playing Rules, a hearing must be offered to be held as set forth in the Playing Rules, and the terms and length of the Party’s suspension shall be as set forth in the Playing Rules unless modified or revoked by the hearing panel. Any hearing for a match penalty shall be conducted according to the Unified Procedure; provided that, in the case of a match penalty being imposed in a district or national championship tournament, the hearing will be conducted immediately after the game in question by the on-site USA Hockey personnel. All applicable game scoresheets and referee reports must be presented to the hearing panel and made available to the Party subject to suspension. Any Playing Rule Suspension shall remain in force and effect and be final unless

modified or revoked at a hearing, except that if the hearing is not held within 30 days of the incident together with a decision in accordance with the Unified Procedure, the suspended Party shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and thereafter imposing further disciplinary action.

**Beginning with the 2026-27 Season, all game officials under the age of 18 years old at the time current-season membership registration opens shall receive a distinctive "green" USA Hockey Officiating sweater crest. This crest shall designate that the game official is a minor, and a game in any age category (except Junior) that is officiated by a minor official shall be subject to increased penalties for infractions under the following USA Hockey playing rules:**

**The following infractions shall result in a Double-Minor or Double-Bench Minor penalty:**

- Rule 601(a)(1)
- Rule 601(b)(1)
- Rule 601(b)(2) - if directed at officials
- Rule 601(b)(3)

**The following infractions shall result in a Double-Misconduct penalty:**

- Rule 601(c)(1) - if directed at officials
- Rule 601(c)(7)

***NOTE: A Double-Misconduct penalty assessed under this Green Officiating Crest program shall not result in an automatic Game Misconduct mandated by USA Hockey Playing Rule 404(a). The player shall serve twice the amount of misconduct penalty time and shall remain in the game with no Game Misconduct assessed unless the penalty was the second Misconduct assessed to that player during the same game.***

**The following infractions resulting in a Game Misconduct penalty shall receive a two-game suspension starting with the next game appearing on the schedule for that team:**

- Rule 601(d)(1)
- Rule 601(d)(2) - if directed at officials
- Rule 601(d)(3)
- Rule 601(d)(4)
- Rule 601(d)(5) - if misconduct is assessed under Rule 601(c)1 for abuse of an official, or Rule 601(c)(7)
- Rule 601(d)(8)
- Rule 601(d)(9)

**Match penalties assessed under Rule 601 shall be subject to the disciplinary process outlined by USA Hockey Bylaw 10.**

**The increased penalty guidelines imposed under the Green Officiating Crest program shall be in effect for all games using one (or more) minor-age game official, and all penalties listed shall be assessed regardless of which game official was the target of the abuse.**

Green Arm-band Program used by some local hockey associations in Canada.

Submitter: Ken Reinhard, Officiating Section Chairperson

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
OFFICIATING			
YOUTH			
GIRLS			
ADULT			
COACHING			
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT			
PLAYING RULES			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** bjr@usahockey.org

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials Section #3

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XI. Junior Hockey

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** J. Junior Classifications Expansion

**Reference (sub-section):** (3)(b)4.a

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 217

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**a. On-ice Officials**

All on-ice officials shall be properly registered with USA Hockey and shall be assigned by the league, or its designee, and all officials shall be paid by the league, or the designee. Only Level 4 referees and Level 3 (minimum) linesmen shall be authorized for use in league competition unless officials at a lesser level are approved in advance by the National Junior Referee-in-Chief.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

**a. On-ice Officials**

All on-ice officials shall be properly registered with USA Hockey and shall be assigned by the league, or its designee, and all officials shall be paid by the league, or the designee. Only Level 4 referees and Level 3 (minimum) ~~linesmen~~ **linespersons** shall be authorized for use in league competition unless officials at a lesser level are approved in advance by the National Junior Referee-in-Chief.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update language to current on-ice official terminology

Submitter: Ken Reinhard, Officiating Section Chairperson

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
JUNIOR			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** bjr@usahockey.org

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li><li>• When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li><li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li><li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li><li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li><li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li><li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li></ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials Section #4

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IV. Officials Registration

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Procedure

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 177 - 179

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**IV. OFFICIALS REGISTRATION**

**A. Procedure**

All on-ice officials must register directly with USA Hockey online at usahockey.com by completing the online registration process and paying the proper fee. Those on-ice officials who are unable to submit their application online may obtain an Official Registration form from their district referee-in-chief.

Previously registered ice hockey officials will receive notification with their specific registration information from the national office prior to the start of the registration season. When the application has been completed online or submitted to the national office with the proper fee, the official will be provided:

- An email confirmation of receipt of their application with additional USA Hockey officiating membership information and resource materials
- The current Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey (if not previously received)
- Information on completing the online rules examination (open book) and online module curriculum

All non-tenured on-ice officials are required to complete an officiating seminar program which will include both classroom and online components. Level 1 and Level 2 officials will also be required to participate in an on-ice session as part of the classroom seminar they attend. It is strongly recommended that all first-year Level 3 officials attend an on-ice session while it is recommended all returning Level 3 officials attend an on-ice session as part of their seminar requirement.

All officials that will be 17 years old as of December 31 of that registration year will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training prior to participation and in accordance with Safe Sport Program Policies and fulfill their USA Hockey background screening requirements once every two seasons.

The MINIMUM requirement for each seminar component for each level is as follows:

- Level 1 – 3 hours of virtual classroom time plus 2.5 hours in-person seminar (including ice session) plus designated online modules

- Level 2 – Minimum of 3 hours of virtual classroom time plus designated online modules
- Level 3 – Minimum of 3 hours of classroom time plus designated online modules
- Level 4 – Minimum of 3 hours of classroom time plus designated online modules

There are tenured registration classifications for both Level 3 and Level 4 officials. Officials who have been completely registered at either Level 3 or Level 4 for three consecutive seasons will be eligible to attend the USA Hockey Advanced Officiating Symposium to obtain their “tenured” status. Once tenured status is achieved, those officials will complete the following registration requirements each season to maintain their tenured status for as long as they continue to register with USA Hockey as an official:

- Submit USA Hockey online application and appropriate fee
- Complete open book exam
- Complete abbreviated online modules
- Complete online SafeSport training prior to participation and in accordance with Safe Sport Program Policies, and fulfill USA Hockey Screening Requirements every two seasons

Once all appropriate registration requirements have been successfully completed, for the level applied for, and the appropriate information forwarded to the national office, the applicant shall be sent:

- A registration card for the proper classification based on requirements met
- A sweater crest for the current season
- Additional information regarding insurance coverage and other officiating program resources available to them

When the referee application has been approved and is received with the appropriate fees in the USA Hockey national office, the referee record will be created and/or updated upon completion of all registration requirements in the USA Hockey database. The district records are available to the referee-in- chief, or their designee, so that local assigners will know who is eligible to officiate.

Registration cards are not transferable and must be renewed annually through the national office.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

#### **IV. OFFICIALS REGISTRATION**

##### **A. Procedure**

All on-ice officials must register directly with USA Hockey online at usahockey.com by completing the online registration process and paying the proper fee. Those on-ice officials who are unable to submit their application online may obtain an Official Registration form from their district referee-in-chief.

Previously registered ice hockey officials will receive notification with their specific registration information from the national office prior to the start of the registration season. When the application has been completed online or submitted to the national office with the proper fee, the official will be provided:

- An email confirmation of receipt of their application with additional USA Hockey officiating membership information and resource materials
- The current Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey (if not previously received)

- Information on completing the online **playing** rules examination **exercise** (open-book) and online **education** module curriculum

All non-tenured on-ice officials are required to complete an officiating **classroom** seminar program which will include both classroom and online components. Level 1 and Level 2 officials will also be required to participate in an on-ice session as part of the classroom seminar they attend. It is strongly recommended that all first-year Level 3 officials attend an on-ice session while it is recommended all returning Level 3 officials attend an on-ice session as part of their seminar requirement.

All officials that will be 17 years old as of December 31 of that registration year will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training prior to participation and in accordance with Safe Sport Program Policies. and **All officials that are 18 years old when the current season membership opens must** fulfill their USA Hockey background screening requirements once every two seasons.

The MINIMUM requirement for each **classroom** seminar component for each level is as follows:

- Level 1: **3.5** hours of virtual classroom time ~~plus 2.5 hours in-person seminar (including ice session)~~ plus designated online **education** modules
- Level 2: Minimum of 3 hours of virtual classroom time plus designated online modules
- Level 3: Minimum of 3 hours of **virtual** classroom time plus designated online modules
- Level 4: Minimum of 3 hours of **virtual** classroom time plus designated online modules

There are tenured registration classifications for both Level 3 and Level 4 officials. Officials who have been completely registered at either Level 3 or Level 4 for three consecutive seasons will be eligible to attend the USA Hockey Advanced Officiating Symposium to obtain their "tenured" status. Once tenured status is achieved, those officials will complete the following registration requirements each season to maintain their tenured status for as long as they continue to register with USA Hockey as an official:

- Submit USA Hockey online application and appropriate fee
- Complete ~~open-book exam~~ **playing rules exercise**
- Complete abbreviated online **education** modules
- Complete online SafeSport training prior to participation and in accordance with Safe Sport Program Policies, and fulfill USA Hockey **background** screening requirements every two seasons

Once all appropriate registration requirements have been successfully completed, for the level applied for, and the appropriate information forwarded to the national office, the applicant shall be sent:

- A registration **referee** card for the proper **level** classification based on requirements met
- A sweater crest for the current season
- Additional information regarding insurance coverage and other officiating program resources available to them

When the referee application has been approved and is received with the appropriate fees in the USA Hockey national office, the referee **membership** record will be created and/or updated upon completion of all registration requirements in the USA Hockey database. The district records are available to the referee-in-chief, or their designee, so that local assigners will know who is eligible to officiate.

Registration cards are not transferable and must be renewed annually through the national office.

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Housekeeping to current language, and amending language outlining current annual membership education requirements.

Submitter: Dave LaBuda, National Referee-in-Chief

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
OFFICIATING			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** bjr@usahockey.org

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials #5

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Programs & Philosophies

**REGULATION (Heading):** F. Officiating Education Program

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 31

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**

**F. OFFICIATING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The objective of the Officiating Education Program is to supply each official with the resources and support to successfully serve the game.

Instructional and support material has been developed on a progressive step-by step basis so that the official can improve their ability and effectiveness over a period of time, be confident that they have received the training to be successful and provide the opportunity to develop their skills in a positive atmosphere. Five levels of achievement have been created for this purpose: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 in addition to the Tenured (Level 3 or 4) program that recognizes our most loyal and dedicated officials.

District referees-in-chief utilize trained regional instructors to conduct instructional seminars in a standard curriculum dealing with topics like on-ice mechanics, rules interpretation and advanced theories of officiating. All non-tenured registered officials are required to attend one seminar annually and complete prescribed online education.

Each summer, development camps are conducted with instruction from our top junior, collegiate, professional and international officials. These camps are designed to further the education of selected officials on all levels using the latest educational methods and techniques.

A full complement of resources, including on-line modules, manuals and videos, the mentor program, an evaluation program, and a local officials association manual and assignors handbook have been developed for educational purposes.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**F. OFFICIATING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The objective of the Officiating Education Program is to supply each official with the resources and support to successfully serve the game.

Instructional and support material has been developed on a progressive step-by step basis so that the official can improve their ability and effectiveness over a period of time, be confident that they have received the training to be successful and provide the opportunity to develop their skills in a positive atmosphere. Five levels of achievement have been created for this purpose: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 in addition to the Tenured (Level 3 or 4) program that recognizes our most loyal and dedicated officials.

~~District referees-in-chief~~ **The National officiating education program** utilizes trained ~~regional~~ instructors to conduct instructional seminars ~~in~~ **with** a standard curriculum dealing with topics like on-ice mechanics, rules interpretation and advanced theories of officiating. All non-tenured registered officials are required to ~~attend~~ **participate in** one **classroom** seminar annually and complete prescribed online education.

Each summer, development camps are conducted with instruction from our top **American** junior, collegiate, professional and international officials. These camps are designed to further the education of selected officials on all levels using the latest educational methods and techniques.

A full complement of resources, including on-line modules, manuals and videos, the mentor program, an evaluation program, and a local officials association manual and assignors' handbook have been developed for educational purposes.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** The Officiating Education Program is evolving from local classroom seminars, utilizing local instructors, to a nationally coordinated program. Classroom seminars are hosted in a virtual classroom setting utilizing curriculum developed by both national staff and volunteer referees-in-chief.

Submitter: Dave LaBuda, National Referee-in-Chief

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
OFFICIALS			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** bjr@usahockey.org

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Please type or print all information. *(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)*
- When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.
- Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be **on or before April 1, 2025.**
- E-mail to: [emily.mcquire@usahockey.org](mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org) and [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)
- Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.
- Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.
- You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (*comment/recommendation*)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (*comment/recommendation*):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials Section #6

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Duties & Responsibilities

**REGULATION (Heading):** XV. USA Hockey Duties and Responsibilities

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** C. Referees-in-Chief

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 231 - 233

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

***C. Referees-in-Chief***

**(1) National Referee-in-Chief**

There shall be a USA Hockey National Referee-in-Chief appointed by the Executive Director subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. His/Her duties shall be:

- (a) In cooperation with the Executive Director, to supervise the activities of the officiating education program, the female development, disabled and district referees-in-chief.
- (b) To determine and disseminate the official USA Hockey interpretation of the playing rules.
- (c) To assist the officiating program director in the development and preparation of material for USA Hockey referee registration and education program.

**(2) Referees-in-Chief**

- (a) There shall be one referee-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one referee-in-chief for female development and one referee-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- (b) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).
- (c) He/She shall have the authority to appoint local supervisors of officials with the approval of the Executive Director. They shall carry out the duties of the referee-in-chief in the designated area prescribed by the referee-in-chief.
- (d) In order to avoid a conflict of interest, the referee-in-chief and any local supervisors of officials shall not hold any other position within his/her hockey district outside of the officiating program without the knowledge and consent of the Executive Director, and then only if he/she had held both positions prior to June 7, 2014.
- (e) The referee-in-chief and any local supervisors of officials shall not be a voting member in any USA Hockey Affiliate Board of Directors unless he/she had held both positions prior to June 7, 2014.
- (f) **His/Her duties shall be:**
  1. Distribute information for official registration to new officials.
  2. Assist all officials with the completion of the direct registration process.
  3. Make available the proper officiating education resources at officiating

seminars.

**NOTE:** *These resources may not be sold, except through the USA Hockey national office. They are for properly registered USA Hockey officials only.*

4. View the work of the officials whenever possible and offer constructive feedback. Institute an evaluation program within their district or discipline.
5. The referee-in-chief shall not assign referees for USA Hockey games, with the exception that he/she shall assign and supervise all referees and linesmen for any regional and/or national championships within their district or discipline.
6. Schedule and conduct seminars for the purpose of improving officiating techniques and uniformity by forming trained seminar staffs, who shall be responsible for conducting various level seminars in their area.
7. Seek out and encourage new people to become officials.
8. He/She shall be a member of an appeal board to hear any appeal of a referee suspension levied by a local supervisor of officials and/or the local amateur hockey governing body. Referees-in-Chief should only be involved at an Affiliate (or national level for female development or disabled) level, not on a local appeal. (See Bylaw 10: Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration).
9. It is strongly recommended that he/she not be a member of a review board that has the authority to suspend a player, team or league official or spectator. His/Her opinion may be expressed, but he/she shall not have a vote on the action to be taken.
10. Disseminate official interpretations of the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.
11. Forward to the rules committee any recommendations for rules changes.
12. Assist in the development of educational materials and serve on a committee to develop such materials if requested.
13. Prepare an annual report of his/her activities.
14. Maintain complete financial records of all income and expenses, such records shall be subject to review and audit by the Audit Committee of this association and/or their designated representative. A copy of their annual financial report shall be available to the Affiliate association involved upon request, through the USA Hockey national office. The Referee-in-Chief will submit an itemized expense reimbursement report of the Referee-in-Chief checking account each month.
15. Recommend officials in his/her district after consultation with the local supervisors of officials for summer officials camps, international competition, national and regional championships and regional/national level programs.
16. The Referees-in-Chief for female development and disabled hockey shall also serve (as non-voting members) on the Girls Council and Disabled Hockey Section, respectively.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

### **C. Referees-in-Chief**

#### **(1) National Referee-in-Chief**

There shall be a USA Hockey National Referee-in-Chief appointed by the Executive Director subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. His/Her duties shall be:

- (a) In cooperation with the Executive Director, to supervise the activities of the officiating education program, the female development, disabled and district

referees-in-chief.

- (b) To determine and disseminate the official USA Hockey interpretation of the playing rules.
- (c) To assist the officiating program ~~director~~ **staff** in the development and preparation of material for USA Hockey referee registration and education program.

## **(2) Referees-in-Chief**

- (a) There shall be one referee-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one referee-in-chief for female development and one referee-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- (b) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).
- (c) He/She shall have the authority to appoint local supervisors of officials with the approval of the Executive Director. They shall carry out the duties of the referee-in-chief in the designated area prescribed by the referee-in-chief.
- (d) In order to avoid a conflict of interest, the referee-in-chief and any local supervisors of officials shall not hold any other position within his/her hockey district outside of the officiating program without the knowledge and consent of the Executive Director, and then only if he/she had held both positions prior to June 7, 2014.
- (e) The referee-in-chief and any local supervisors of officials shall not be a voting member in any USA Hockey Affiliate Board of Directors unless he/she had held both positions prior to June 7, 2014.

### **(f) His/Her duties shall be:**

1. Distribute information for official **membership** registration to new officials.
2. Assist all officials with the completion of the direct registration process.
3. Make available the proper officiating education resources at officiating **classroom** seminars.

***NOTE:** These resources may not be sold, except through the USA Hockey national office. They are for properly registered USA Hockey officials only.*

4. View the work of the officials whenever possible and offer constructive feedback. Institute an evaluation **and mentor** program within their district or discipline.
5. The referee-in-chief shall not assign referees for USA Hockey games, with the exception that he/she shall assign and supervise all referees and ~~linesmen~~ **linespersons** for any ~~regional~~ **district** and/or national championships within their district or discipline.
6. **Assist with** ~~Schedule~~ **scheduling** and **conducting** seminars for the purpose of improving officiating techniques and uniformity by forming **nationally** trained seminar staffs, who shall be responsible for conducting various level seminars in their area.
7. Seek out and encourage new people to become officials.
8. He/She shall be a member of an appeal board to hear any appeal of a referee suspension levied by a local supervisor of officials and/or the local amateur hockey governing body. Referees-in-Chief should only be involved at an Affiliate (or national level for female development or disabled) level, not on a local appeal. (See Bylaw 10: Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration).
9. It is strongly recommended that he/she not be a member of a review board that has the authority to suspend a player, team or league official or spectator. His/Her opinion may be expressed, but he/she shall not have a vote on the action to be taken.
10. Disseminate official interpretations of the USA Hockey Playing Rules

Committee.

11. Forward to the rules committee any recommendations for rules changes.
12. Assist in the development of educational materials and serve on a committee to develop such materials if requested.
13. Prepare an annual report of his/her activities.
14. Maintain complete financial records of all income and expenses, such records shall be subject to review and audit by the Audit Committee of this association and/or their designated representative. A copy of their annual financial report shall be available to the Affiliate association involved upon request, through the USA Hockey national office. The Referee-in-Chief will submit an itemized expense reimbursement report of the Referee-in-Chief checking account each month.
15. Recommend officials in his/her district after consultation with the local supervisors of officials for summer officials camps, international competition, national and regional **district** championships and regional **district**/national level programs.
16. The Referees-in-Chief for female development and disabled hockey shall also serve (as non-voting members) on the Girls Council and Disabled Hockey Section, respectively.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

Submitter: Dave LaBuda, National Referee-in-Chief

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
OFFICIALS			
BOARD OF DIRECTORS			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Officials Section #7

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 6. Councils, Committees and Sections

**Section:** C. Sections

**Reference (sub-section):** (1) Officials (Referees and Linesmen)

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** (a) / pg.103

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**(1) Officials (Referees and Linesmen)**

(a) The Officials Section shall be composed of all Allied Members who register with USA Hockey as ice hockey officials. The voting members of the Officials Section shall be the National Referee-in-Chief, the Referee-in-Chief of Female Development, the National Disabled Referee-in-Chief and the District Referees-in-Chief, as appointed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey. The voting members of the Officials Section shall be entitled to nominate one candidate from its membership to be considered by the Congress for election as the Officials Section Representative to Congress and Section Chair for a three (3) year term, in accordance with the election requirements set forth in paragraph B(2) of Bylaw 4. Upon the election of a Section Chair, the District formerly represented by the Section Chair may elect a replacement District representative to the Officials Section. Effective as of the elections occurring at the 2023 Winter Meeting, no person may serve more than three consecutive terms as the Officials Section Representative to Congress, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an Officials Section Representative’s unexpired term shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter. The Officials Section is exempt from the Athlete Representation Requirement.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

**(1) Officials (Referees and ~~Linesmen~~ Linesperson)**

(a) The Officials Section shall be composed of all Allied Members who register with USA Hockey as ice hockey officials. The voting members of the Officials Section shall be the National Referee-in-Chief, the Referee-in-Chief of Female Development, the National Disabled Referee-in-Chief and the District Referees-in-Chief, as appointed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey. The voting members of the Officials Section shall be entitled to nominate one candidate from its membership to be considered by the Congress for election as the Officials Section Representative to Congress and Section Chair for a three (3) year term, in accordance with the election requirements set forth in paragraph B(2) of Bylaw 4. Upon the election of a Section Chair, the District formerly represented by the Section Chair may elect a replacement District representative to the Officials Section. Effective as of the

elections occurring at the 2023 Winter Meeting, no person may serve more than three consecutive terms as the Officials Section Representative to Congress, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an Officials Section Representative’s unexpired term shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter. The Officials Section is exempt from the Athlete Representation Requirement.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update to sub-section heading to include gender-neutral job title

Submitter: Ken Reinhard, Officiating Section Chairperson

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
OFFICIALS			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** bjr@usahockey.org

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Affiliate Presidents #1

NAME OF PUBLICATION: 2024-25 Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Rules & Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): III. Team Membership and Registration

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: D. Proper Affiliate for Team/Program Registration

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): Page 172

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

No Existing Language – Possible insertion in Annual Guide, Paragraph D page 172  
Proper Affiliate for Team/Program Registration with a change in the Paragraph title  
to Proper Affiliate for **Membership**/Team/Program

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as  
it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike through~~)

### **Affiliate Residency Rule for Tier II and Recreational Hockey Players**

#### **1. General Rule**

All players participating in Tier II and Recreational hockey must register and play for the affiliate that corresponds to their primary place of residence. A residency is defined as where the player's parents live as the player's primary residence. There may be exceptions to this rule in the case of changes in family dynamics (divorce, death, etc.). These exceptions will be ruled on a case-by-case basis only, determined by the losing Affiliate, gaining Affiliate and President's Committee. "Lives" or "Resides" for this purpose means: "eats, sleeps, attends school and performs normal daily activities from that address. No player may have more than one residence for the purposes of hockey.

#### **2. Exceptions and Appeals Process**

Recognizing that individual circumstances may require flexibility, the following exceptions and processes are available:

##### **A. Proximity to Another Affiliate:**

- If a player's primary residence is closer to an associate member in a neighboring affiliate, the player may request a Residency/Proximity Waiver Request.

##### **B. Special Circumstances:**

- Players facing unique situations, such as family relocation, access to specific educational opportunities, or other exceptional circumstances, may appeal to play outside their home affiliate or district.

##### **C. Existing Written Affiliate Agreements**

- Existing or developed written affiliate agreements amongst neighboring affiliates will

take precedence over this policy.

### 3. Waiver and Appeal Application Process

#### A. Submission:

- Players or guardians must submit a Residency/Proximity Waiver Request Form to their home affiliate.
- The application must include:
  - Justification for the request.
  - Supporting documentation (e.g., proof of residence, maps showing proximity, or other relevant materials).

#### B. Review Process:

- Waiver requests will be reviewed by a Residency Review Committee consisting of representatives from the home affiliate, neighboring affiliate, and Affiliate President's Committee.

#### C. Decision Timeline:

- Decisions on waiver requests will be communicated within 14 days of submission.

#### D. Appeals:

- If a waiver request is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Appeal Authority made up of three disinterested individuals assigned by the President's Committee whose decision is final. There are no personal appearances on appeals to the Appeal Authority. The issues set out in the appeal are resolved solely on the written submissions of the parties to the appeal.

### 4. Compliance and Enforcement

- Players found violating the residency rule without an approved waiver will be deemed ineligible for the season.
- Teams and associations knowingly rostering ineligible players may face penalties, including but not limited to, forfeiture of games, loss of tournament bound status, fines, sanctions, etc.
- All decisions/determinations will fall under USAH Bylaw 10 procedures and policies.

### 5. Annual Review

This rule will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the needs of players, affiliates, and districts.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To support and maintain the intent and spirit of community-based hockey at the Tier II and Recreational levels.

Submitter: Steven Oleheiser, President MN Hockey and USAH Director,

Chairman Affiliate Presidents Committee-USAH

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Shawn Spencer

**AFFILIATION:** Midwest Amateur Hockey Association and Central District Representative

**EMAIL:** Shawn.L.Spencer71@gmail.com

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): January 5, 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: January 10, 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Ethics Committee #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Programs & Philosophies

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** B. – Code of Conduct of USA Hockey, Inc.

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page 21 - 27

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

*Entire Section of Code of Conduct*

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*Move Code of Conduct to the Policies Section at C., and renumber Policies thereafter.*

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping, as Code of Conduct should be in Policies.

**Submitter:** Charles Fuertsch

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			
Ethics Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES** **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Charles Fuertsch

**AFFILIATION:** Ethics Committee\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** ethicschair@usahockey.org

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Ethics #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Policies

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** H. Conflicts of Interest

**Section:** B. Existence of Conflict of Interest

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page 40 - 47

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

*No Current Wording*

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*Add at the end of Section B:*

- When a Responsible Person serves on a hearing or appeal panel regarding a matter in which they were previously involved.

*Example:* A person was responsible for investigating a Safe Sport or Disciplinary matter and thereafter serves on the hearing or appeal panel or is present for deliberations when discipline or sanctions are determined.

*Example:* A Person served on a hearing panel to determine discipline, or an Administrative Action and then serves on the appeal panel for the same matter.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To add examples of conflicts of interest often seen in hearing and appeal panels.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):* Legal Council

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			
Ethics Committee			
National Appeal Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Charles Fuertsch

**AFFILIATION:** Ethics Committee\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** ethicschair@usahockey.org\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Ethics #3

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 6. Councils, Committee and Sections

**Section:** B. Committees

**Reference (sub-section):** (6) Ethics Committee

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page 97 - 98

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**(6) Ethics Committee**

**(a) Composition**

The Ethics Committee shall be comprised of six (6) persons, including the Chair, all of whom shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors, provided that the Athletes shall also be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee. No member of the Ethics Committee may be a member of the Board or the Congress or hold any other elected or appointed position within USA Hockey. As a Designated Committee, the Athlete Representation Requirement on the Ethics Committee shall be met by having two Eligible Athletes, one of which must be a 10 Year Athletes and the other may be either a 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athlete, which appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee and the Board.

**(b) Duties and Responsibilities**

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Ethics Committee to:

1. Review and submit proposed revisions to the USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy and/or Conflict of Interest Policy for consideration by the Board of Directors;
2. Consider and review alleged breaches of the USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy or Conflict of Interest Policy as they apply to members of the Board, Congress and Councils, Committees and Sections, and report all substantive violations to the Board of Directors for referral of adjudication in accordance with the USA Hockey Bylaws;
3. Approve the form of Conflict of Interest Disclosure form to be completed by all members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections and staff;
4. Require the submission of an annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure form by all members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections (requiring the submission of Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms by staff shall be within the authority of the Executive Director);
5. Review Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms by members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections, and investigate and evaluate the

existence of any conflicts of interest in particular situations, and how they may be resolved or addressed.

6. Provide an annual report to the Board of Directors and Congress as appropriate;
7. As part of performing its duties as set out above, the Ethics Committee may make inquiry from and request any relevant information from the Board, Congress and all Councils, Committee and Sections, staff members and other individuals within USA Hockey and shall be entitled to conduct or authorize reviews into any alleged violation of any USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy and/or Conflict of Interest Policy by any member of the Board, Congress and Councils, Committees and Sections. For avoidance of doubt, the scope of the review is limited to the alleged violation and shall be completely confidential.

The Ethics Committee shall exercise its duties and responsibilities to the highest professional degree possible and shall endeavor to maintain confidentiality of its deliberations and actions and to protect the privacy of individuals before it as required by these Bylaws and applicable law. Any Ethics Committee member with a conflict of interest shall remove themselves from deliberations and abstain from voting on the respective matter(s).

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

## **(6) Ethics Committee**

### **(a) Composition**

The Ethics Committee shall be comprised of six (6) persons, including the Chair, all of whom shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors, provided that the Athletes shall also be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee. No member of the Ethics Committee may be a member of the Board or the Congress or hold any other elected or appointed position (**excluding Representatives Emeritus**) within USA Hockey. As a Designated Committee, the Athlete Representation Requirement on the Ethics Committee shall be met by having two Eligible Athletes, one of which must be a 10 Year Athletes and the other may be either a 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athlete, which appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee and the Board.

### **(b) Duties and Responsibilities**

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Ethics Committee to:

1. Review and submit proposed revisions to the USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy and/or Conflict of Interest Policy for consideration by the Board of Directors;
2. Consider and review alleged breaches of the USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy or Conflict of Interest Policy as they apply to members of the Board, Congress and Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; and other by persons appointed by USA Hockey;** and report all substantive violations to the Board of Directors for referral of adjudication in accordance with the USA Hockey Bylaws;
3. Approve the form of Conflict of Interest Disclosure form to be completed by all members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; other by persons appointed by USA Hockey;** and staff;
4. Require the submission of an annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure form by all members

of USA Hockey’s Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; and other by persons appointed by USA Hockey** (requiring the submission of Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms by staff shall be within the authority of the Executive Director);

5. Review Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms by members of USA Hockey’s Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; and other by persons appointed by USA Hockey;** and investigate and evaluate the existence of any conflicts of interest in particular situations, and how they may be resolved or addressed.
6. Provide an annual report to the Board of Directors and Congress as appropriate;
7. As part of performing its duties as set out above, the Ethics Committee may make inquiry from and request any relevant information from the Board, Congress and all Councils, Committee and Sections, staff members and other individuals within USA Hockey and shall be entitled to conduct or authorize reviews into any alleged violation of any USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy and/or Conflict of Interest Policy by any member of the Board, Congress and Councils, Committees and Sections or **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and R Associate Risk Managers or other by persons appointed by USA Hockey.** For avoidance of doubt, the scope of the review is limited to the alleged violation and shall be completely confidential.

The Ethics Committee shall exercise its duties and responsibilities to the highest professional degree possible and shall endeavor to maintain confidentiality of its deliberations and actions and to protect the privacy of individuals before it as required by these Bylaws and applicable law. Any Ethics Committee member with a conflict of interest shall remove themselves from deliberations and abstain from voting on the respective matter(s).

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To specify that the Ethics Committee shall also have authority to review matters involving Associate Registrars, Risk Managers, Coaches-in-Chief, Referees-in-Chief and others appointed by USA Hockey.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Ethics Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			
Ethics Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES** **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Charles Fuertsch

**AFFILIATION:** Ethics Committee \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** ethicschair@usahockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025</b>.</li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcguire@usahockey.org">emily.mcguire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 01 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** THIS IS USA HOCKEY

**MAIN HEADING:** Youth/Junior Age Classifications

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 14

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

Table represents birth year/age category/ youth/junior age division/ girls teams age division

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

**Add in youth and adult classifications for disabled disciplines**

- **Blind**
- **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**
- **Special**
- **Sled**
- **Standing amputee**

**Add in adult classification for**

- **Warrior**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

Update to reflect disabled disciplines.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar			
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES (NO) (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 03/26/2025 \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li><li>• When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li><li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b><u>on or before April 1, 2025.</u></b></li><li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li><li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li><li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li><li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li></ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO: Registrar \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Chair: Mike McCullough \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/26/25 \_\_\_\_\_**

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (*comment/recommendation*)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Director(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Review by District Director(s) (*comment/recommendation*):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 02 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** PROGRAMS AND PHILOSOPHIES

**MAIN HEADING:** Player Development and International Programs

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** D. Player Development and International Programs

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 29

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

The attainment of that goal begins each summer as USA Hockey hosts a series of national and/or regional Player Development Camps for able-bodied boys and girls ages 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as a camp for sled hockey players. Nearly 1,300 athletes representing each of USA Hockey’s 12 districts participate in the week-long events, which attract scouts and evaluators from every level of hockey. Participants receive on- and off-ice training under the direction of leading USA hockey coaches, along with current and former National Hockey League, Women’s National Team and National Sled Team players. Participants are chosen through an evaluation process conducted at the local and district levels.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike through~~)

The attainment of that goal begins each summer as USA Hockey hosts a series of national and/or regional Player Development Camps for able-bodied boys and girls ages 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as a camp for sled hockey players **15 years old and older as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of the development camp year**. Nearly 1,300 athletes representing each of USA Hockey’s 12 districts participate in the week-long events, which attract scouts and evaluators from every level of hockey. Participants receive on- and off-ice training under the direction of leading USA hockey coaches, along with current and former National Hockey League, Women’s National Team and National Sled Team players. Participants are chosen through an evaluation process conducted at the local and district levels.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

Update to reflect the minimum age of a player for sled development camp.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			
Player Development			
International			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 03 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Bylaws

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 6. Councils, Committees and Sections

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 86 – paragraph 7

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

Each Council, Committee or Section member must attend at least one meeting of the applicable Council, Committee or Section, per year.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike through~~)

Each Council, Committee or Section member must attend at least one **in-person** meeting of the applicable Council, Committee or Section, per year **or they may be replaced.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

To clarify the level of engagement of members.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			
All other Councils, Cmtes, Sections			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Please type or print all information. *(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)*
- When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.
- Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be **on or before April 1, 2025.**
- E-mail to: [emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org](mailto:emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org) and [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)
- Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.
- Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.
- You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO: All Councils, Committee and Section Chairs**

**Name of Chair: Per Annual Guide** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date: 3/26/25** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 04 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** BYLAWS

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 6. Councils, Committees and Sections

**Section:** A. Councils

**Reference (sub-section):** (6) Membership Council (a) Composition

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 91

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

New wording

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**Section Chairs and the staff liaison may serve as non-voting members of the Council.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

To align with the current practice of the Membership Council, Youth Council, Girls Council.

Additionally, to add Disabled Section ex-officio representation to other Councils, Committees and Sections as relevant, or to include representatives from these Committees on the Disabled Section. As an example:

- Player Development
- Playing Rules
- SPEC
- Marketing

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Membership			
Youth/Girls			
Player Development			
Playing Rules			
SPEC			
Marketing			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 06 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** I. Participant Registration

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 159

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Youth, Girls, High School, College, Adult

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike through~~)

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Youth, Girls, High School, College, Adult, **Disabled Disciplines**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Add Disabled Disciplines to section heading

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b><u>on or before April 1, 2025.</u></b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO: Registrar** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Chair: Mike McCullough** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date: 3/26/25** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 07 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** II. Classifications

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** c. Disabled

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 164

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**

(1) Classifications

- Adult Sled (19 & Over)
- Youth Sled (18 & Under)\*
- Special (all ages)
- Amputee/Standing (all ages)
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing (all ages)
- Blind/Visually Impaired (all ages)
- Warrior Hockey (veterans with a disability playing upright)

\*Sled players over the age of 18 may be allowed to play on a youth sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the adult sled division upon approved waiver.

\*\*In any Disabled Hockey classification, the local program, league, Affiliate or USA Hockey may require that players 18 and over complete a background screen in accordance with USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program prior to participation. Players may be prohibited from participating in disabled classifications based on a violation of the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program policies through a summary suspension where appropriate, or following a hearing in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)** (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

(2) Classifications

- Adult Sled (~~19 & Over~~) **(18 and over as of December 31st)\***
- Youth Sled (~~18 & Under~~)\* **(Under 18 as of December 31st)\*\***
- Special (all ages)
- Amputee/Standing (all ages)
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing (all ages)
- Blind/Visually Impaired (all ages)
- Warrior Hockey (**military** veterans with a disability playing upright)

**\*Sled players 15-17 years of age may be allowed to play on an adult sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the youth sled division effective upon receiving**

**an approved waiver. Once this age waiver is approved, the player remains eligible to play on an adult sled team until they are age-appropriate for that level. Annual waiver requests are not required. If a player aged 15 to 17 has waived onto an adult team for a season or for The Classic/Nationals, they may choose to play in the youth division the following season. If they choose to return to the youth division, they will not be eligible to play adult until they have reached the age of eligibility. All players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season on the team where this under-aged player participates must have a valid SafeSport training completed before the player can join the team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration – A. Membership – for details.**

**\*\*Sled players 18 and over may be allowed to play on a youth sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the adult sled division upon approved waiver. This adult aged player is required to complete Safe Sport training (or receive a SafeSport waiver as appropriate) before joining the youth team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration – A. Membership – for details.**

~~\*\*In any Disabled Hockey classification, the local program, league, Affiliate or USA Hockey may require that players 18 and over complete a background screen in accordance with USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program prior to participation. Players may be prohibited from participating in disabled classifications based on a violation of the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program policies through a summary suspension where appropriate, or following a hearing in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.~~

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update age classification and update age waiver requirements

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			
Registrar			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**  
**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 08 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** III. Team Membership and Registration

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** c. Registration

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 171

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

***E. National Championship-Bound Teams***

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

No player may play in more than one State, Affiliate or District Championship or playoffs leading thereto. However, a player rostered on both a High School division team and a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team may play in teams' State, Affiliate or District Championship or playoffs leading thereto.

In the event a player is registered on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date on which the effective date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

Girls may dual roster on a youth and girls team if the Affiliate rules permit dual registration for females. Dual-rostered females playing on youth and girls teams may continue playing on both teams until the end of the regular season. However, the player must declare in writing to her appropriate registrar, or his/ her designee, by December 31 on which national championship-bound team she wishes to be eligible to advance to the district, state, regional and national championship. If the player does not indicate on which team she wishes to be eligible for district, state, regional and national tournaments, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely based on the date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the Youth/Junior Affiliated Player Policy, any youth player (male or female) rostered on a Tier I or Tier II youth or girls team and a Junior Program team as of December 31, can only play for one team after

December 31. Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the Youth/Junior Affiliate Player Policy, if the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth or girls team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level. Disputes regarding this rule should be resolved by the appropriate registrar.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

***E. National Championship-Bound Teams***

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth, ~~or~~ Girls **or Sled** national championship bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

No player may play in more than one State, Affiliate or District Championship or playoffs leading thereto. However, a player rostered on both a High School division team and a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team may play in teams' State, Affiliate or District Championship or playoffs leading thereto.

In the event a player is registered on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date on which the effective date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

Girls may dual roster on a youth and girls team if the Affiliate rules permit dual registration for females. Dual-rostered females playing on youth and girls teams may continue playing on both teams until the end of the regular season. However, the player must declare in writing to her appropriate registrar, or his/ her designee, by December 31 on which national championship-bound team she wishes to be eligible to advance to the district, state, regional and national championship. If the player does not indicate on which team she wishes to be eligible for district, state, regional and national tournaments, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely based on the date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

**Sled Hockey players must register with their closest program, but may dual roster during the season to increase opportunities for play (see Section X, Sled Hockey Roster Eligibility). Sled players may not dual roster at the same game/event/tournament and must play with their local program if the local program is in attendance. Roster and league eligibility shall be managed by the teams and league/tournament directors involved according to their local Affiliate or District, except for the Sled Classic and USA Hockey Sled Nationals. The rosters for those events shall be managed by the Disabled Hockey Section Fair Play Committee.**

**\*\*\*girls/women sled players may dual roster during a tournament with tournament director approval in order to increase opportunities and grow the game.**

Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the Youth/Junior Affiliated Player Policy, any youth player (male or female) rostered on a Tier I or Tier II youth or girls team and a Junior Program team as of December 31, can only play for one team after December 31. Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the

Youth/Junior Affiliate Player Policy, if the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth or girls team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level. Disputes regarding this rule should be resolved by the appropriate registrar.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Address requirements for dual rostering at Sled

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth			
Disabled			
Registrar			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 11 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** VI. Team Manager/Volunteers

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 183

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

It is recommended that Youth and Girls registered ice hockey teams have a team manager. All Youth, and Girls national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager. A coach who also serves as team manager would register only as a coach. Managers are covered under USA Hockey insurance policies. A team manager who is not registered as a coach may not participate in on-ice activities or be on the bench during games.

USA Hockey Managers/Volunteers, who have access to youth participants, will complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training and background check in accordance with USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Failure to comply with the SafeSport and Screening Policies will result in the forfeiture of privileges in programs, at sites, or events under USA Hockey's governance.

The team manager shall be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in invitational tournaments and district, regional and national championships. See Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, Subsection P. for complete listing

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike~~through)

It is recommended that Youth ~~and Girls~~ , **Girls and Disabled Disciplines** registered ice hockey teams have a team manager. All Youth and Girls national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager. **Disabled Disciplines teams that attend national championship or other USAH sponsored events (e.g. Classics) are required to have a team manager.** A coach who also serves as team manager would register only as a coach. Managers are covered under USA Hockey insurance policies. A team manager who is not registered as a coach may not participate in on-ice activities or be on the bench during games.

USA Hockey Managers/Volunteers, who have access to youth participants, will complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training and background check in accordance with USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Failure to comply with the SafeSport and Screening Policies will result in the forfeiture of privileges in programs, at sites, or events under USA Hockey's governance.

**The team manager, locker room monitors and on-ice volunteers (including sled pushers) are required to be added to the team roster.**

The team manager shall be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in invitational tournaments and district, regional and national championships. See Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, Subsection P. for complete listing.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Include disabled disciplines into this section. Add that on-ice volunteers are to be added to rosters.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			
Youth			
Registrar			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**SA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 12 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Playing Rules

**REGULATION (Heading):** Playing Rules

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** VII. Playing Rules

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 183

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

USA Hockey will publish two official playing rules books – one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Youth, Adult and Girls ice hockey classifications and one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Junior classifications. In addition, USA Hockey shall make available on the USA Hockey website, on or before August 1 of the current membership season, the Official Rules of Sled Hockey, which shall contain all sled hockey specific rules that are not covered in the Official Rules of Ice Hockey. All constituent members must abide by the appropriate rulebook. Constituent members include all teams registered with USA Hockey as well as the leagues in which these teams are playing. No other playing rules book will be allowed.

Any requested modifications to the playing rules by any Affiliate or local league must be submitted to the district referee-in-chief for their review. The district referee-in-chief will then submit their recommendation to the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee who shall make the final decision.

For the Junior version of the USA Hockey playing rules, any requested modifications to the playing rules shall be submitted to the Junior Council for review and recommendation prior to final review and approval by the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.

These requests must be submitted in writing prior to the start of each season and no later than August 15.

Changes to the above policy can be made from time to time by the Executive Committee.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

USA Hockey will publish two official playing rules books – one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Youth, Adult, ~~and~~ **and all Disabled Disciplines** ice hockey classifications and one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Junior classifications. ~~In addition, USA Hockey shall make available on the USA Hockey website, on or before August 1 of the current membership season, the Official Rules of Sled Hockey, which shall contain all sled hockey specific rules that are not covered in the Official Rules of Ice Hockey.~~ All constituent members must abide by the appropriate rulebook. Constituent members include all

teams registered with USA Hockey as well as the leagues in which these teams are playing. No other playing rules book will be allowed.

Any requested modifications to the playing rules by any Affiliate or local league must be submitted to the district referee-in-chief for their review. The district referee-in-chief will then submit their recommendation to the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee who shall make the final decision. **Any requested modifications to the Disabled Disciplines playing rules by any Affiliate or local league must be submitted to the Disabled Section via its Chairperson for review. The Disabled Section will then submit their recommendation to the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee, who shall make the final decision.**

For the Junior version of the USA Hockey playing rules, any requested modifications to the playing rules shall be submitted to the Junior Council for review and recommendation prior to final review and approval by the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.

These requests must be submitted in writing prior to the start of each season and no later than August 15.

Changes to the above policy can be made from time to time by the Executive Committee.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update to reflect the inclusion of Disabled Discipline playing rules into the Rule book.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Playing Rules			
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**MAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 13 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** VIII. Games, Exhibition Games, Invitational Tournaments,  
Sanctioned Leagues and Sanctioned Events

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Definition of a Game  
C. Definition of a Tournament

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 184

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

- A. Definition of a Game: An ice hockey game is a contest played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey or a member organization of the IIHF. USA Hockey playing rules or approved modification thereof shall apply.
- E. (7) Invitational tournaments shall be prohibited from being held within 100 miles of, and on the same weekend as a USA Hockey national championship

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike through~~)

- A. Definition of a Game: An ice hockey game is a contest played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey or a member organization of the IIHF **or IPC/WPIH**. USA Hockey playing rules or approved modification thereof shall apply.
- E. (7) Invitational tournaments shall be prohibited from being held within 100 miles of, and on the same weekend as a USA Hockey national championship **and/or Disabled Discipline Classics**.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Add International Paralympic Committee into section A. Add Disabled Discipline Classics into Section C (7).

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar			
International			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 14 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. State/Affiliate And/Or District Playoffs And National Championships

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 188

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

Youth Classifications

[13 & 14 (14U), 15-only (15O), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 & 18 (18U)]

Girls Classifications

[13 & 14 (14U), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 to 19 (19U)]

High School

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct state/affiliate and/or district playoffs and national championship tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto in the Youth, Girls and High School age classifications. The rules and regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships are set forth in this Article IX. The USA Hockey Youth Council shall approve a USA Hockey State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before September 1 prior to the following year's state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior and Adult classifications, please contact the appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office.

***NOTE: Each reference to district and national championship tournaments shall refer to state/affiliate and/or district and national championships tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto.***

### ***A. Player and Team Registration***

All national tournament-bound teams and players must be registered with USA Hockey and must be a member in good standing of an Affiliate association on or before December 31 of the playing season. Teams competing on natural ice have until January 20 to register. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls) rule, that team's official team roster registration form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate district registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played.

### ***B. Coaching Education Requirements***

All coaches must have current USA Hockey certification and the corresponding online age-specific module to participate in the district and national championships. All coaches are expected and required to follow all USA Hockey rules, including the helmet rule, during all pre-tournament and tournament events. If a coach is found non-compliant with the helmet rule during any pre-tournament or tournament event(s), it will result in a Discipline Committee hearing with a minimum 30-day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs. The Discipline Committee will refer the non-compliance back to the appropriate Affiliate to implement the suspension. Pre-tournament refers to any on-ice sessions, practices, or scrimmages that a coach participates in at any tournament venue or in the tournament city up to 2-days prior to the start of the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships.

### ***C. Team Classifications (NO CHANGES TO Youth/Girls High School language – excluded here for simplicity)***

#### ***D. Tournament Eligibility and Registration***

(1) Players and registered team members properly classified shall be eligible to participate in state/affiliate and/or district and national championships.

For specifics see:

(a) Rules & Regulations; Section II: Classifications; Subsections Youth, Girls, High School Divisions

(b) Rules & Regulations; Section III: Team Membership and Registration; Subsection proper Affiliate for Team/Program Registration.

(c) Rules & Regulations; Section VI: Team Manager/Volunteer

(2) The team shall be certified by its appropriate registrar (form 2-C, team roster registration certification) to have complied with all eligibility requirements.

(a) All players and registered team members shall be listed on the official team roster (1-T) and credential verification sheet (form 1-C).

(b) All Youth and Girls national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager and, at minimum, one locker room monitor listed on the official team roster (1-T).

(c) All national tournament bound teams need to have positions and jersey numbers (home and away) assigned as part of the official team roster (1-T).

(3) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a district registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, is required. Also, for all High School divisions, evidence of current school

enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.

(4) The team's certified player roster and credentials must be in the hands of the championship director one week before the start of the championship.

(5) The team and each rostered member must be eligible to participate in the state/affiliate and/or district championships in order to participate in the national championships.

(6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals

(a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least twenty (20) games for youth teams, at least fourteen (14) games for girls teams and at least ten (10) games for all High School divisions, and

(b) Each youth and girls player must have played in at least ten (10) games during the season. Each player in all High School divisions must have played in at least five (5) games during the season.

(c) For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls, 10/5 all high school divisions) rule, that team's player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the 20/10 (14/10 girls, 10/5 all high school divisions) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth and girls Tier I and Tier II teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for all High School divisions). If an affiliate, state or district tournament is held prior to December 31, player changes to the official team roster will not be accepted after the affiliate, state or district tournament begins. If a player is rostered on a team at the time the team participates in a State/Affiliate and/or District tournament before December 31, the player may not be rostered on a different official team roster after the affiliate, state, or district tournament begins.

(d) A game is a contest played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see paragraph Q. Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School division games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.

**Ineligible Coach(s)/Player(s)** – Any coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended from coaching in any games that lead to a state/affiliate and/or district and national championships in the current hockey season.

(8) **Appeal Procedure** – Should a youth, girls or high school level team, coach or player(s) be declared ineligible by a final decision of the applicable affiliate, district or registrar to compete in state/affiliate, district and/or national championships, or playoffs leading to a state/affiliate and/or district or national championship, the team, coach or player may appeal its ineligibility to the National Championships Appeal Committee, which shall be comprised of the Youth Council chair, Girls Council chair, Registrar Section chair, National Championship chair, or their designees, and sufficient Eligible Athletes to meet the Athlete Representation Requirement. The National Championships Appeal Committee will add the High School Section Representative in the case of all High School divisions. Upon receipt of the appeal, the National Championships Appeal Committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this National Championships Appeal Committee shall be final.

***E. Number and Qualification of Teams (NO CHANGES TO this section – excluded here for simplicity)***

## ***F. Entry Fees***

### **(1) State/Affiliate and/or Districts**

Fees should be determined by the cost of running the event. The fee shall be submitted and approved by the national championship chair at least thirty (30) days prior to the state/affiliate and/or district championship. The tournament may charge an entry fee for each team and may not charge a gate.

## **(2) Nationals**

Each team at all national tournaments (Youth, Girls and High School) shall pay a tournament entry fee as determined by Section 2(J)(3)(i) of the National Championship Tournament Guidebook.

### ***G. Notification of Intent to Enter Team(s)***

### ***H. Completion Dates***

### ***I. Age Classifications***

All other requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments shall be set forth in the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook.

## **SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)**

### Youth Classifications

[13 & 14 (14U), 15-only (15O), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 & 18 (18U)]

### Girls Classifications

[13 & 14 (14U), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 to 19 (19U)]

### High School

## **Warrior, Adult Sled and Youth Sled**

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct state/affiliate and/or district playoffs and national championship tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto in the Youth, Girls and High School age classifications. **USA Hockey shall also conduct national championship tournaments for Warrior Hockey, Youth Sled Hockey and Adult Sled Hockey classifications.** The rules and regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships are set forth in this Article IX. The USA Hockey Youth Council shall approve a USA Hockey State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before September 1 prior to the following year's state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior, Adult and Adult classifications **and all Disabled Disciplines**, please contact the appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office.

***NOTE:*** Each reference to district and national championship tournaments shall refer to state/affiliate and/or district and national championships tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto.

### ***A. Player and Team Registration***

All national tournament-bound teams and players must be registered with USA Hockey and must be a member in good standing of an Affiliate association on or before December 31 of the playing season. Teams competing on natural ice have until January 20 to register. Player changes to the official team

roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. **Disabled Disciplines should refer to the Disabled Section for roster eligibility and deadlines.** For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls) rule, that team's official team roster registration form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate district registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played.

***B. Coaching Education Requirements (No changes to this section)***

***C. Team Classifications (NO CHANGES TO Youth/Girls High School language – excluded here for simplicity)***

***D. Tournament Eligibility and Registration***

(1) Players and registered team members properly classified shall be eligible to participate in state/affiliate and/or district and national championships.

For specifics see:

(a) Rules & Regulations; Section II: Classifications; Subsections Youth, Girls, High School, **Disabled Divisions**

(b) Rules & Regulations; Section III: Team Membership and Registration; Subsection proper Affiliate for Team/Program Registration **and Section E. National Championship Bound Teams (for Disabled Disciplines)**

(c) Rules & Regulations; Section VI: Team Manager/Volunteer

(2) The team shall be certified by its appropriate registrar (form 2-C, team roster registration certification) to have complied with all eligibility requirements.

(a) All players and registered team members shall be listed on the official team roster (1-T) and credential verification sheet (form 1-C).

(b) All Youth and Girls **and Disabled Disciplines** national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager and, at minimum, one locker room monitor listed on the official team roster (1-T).

(c) All national tournament bound teams need to have positions and jersey numbers (home and away) assigned as part of the official team roster (1-T).

(3) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate **or VA disability rating for Warrior Hockey teams** has been completed by a district registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, **or VA Disability rating is required.** Also, for all High School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.

(4) The team's certified player roster and credentials must be in the hands of the championship director one week before the start of the championship.

(5) The team and each rostered member must be eligible to participate in the state/affiliate and/or district championships in order to participate in the national championships.

(6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals **(NO CHANGES)**

**Ineligible Coach(s)/Player(s)** – Any coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended from coaching in any games that lead to a state/affiliate and/or district and national

championships in the current hockey season.

(8) **Appeal Procedure** – Should a youth, girls or high school **or disabled discipline** level team, coach or player(s) be declared ineligible by a final decision of the applicable affiliate, district or registrar to compete in state/affiliate, district and/or national championships, or playoffs leading to a state/affiliate and/or district or national championship, the team, coach or player may appeal its ineligibility to the National Championships Appeal Committee, which shall be comprised of the Youth Council chair, Girls Council chair, Registrar Section chair, National Championship chair, or their designees, and sufficient Eligible Athletes to meet the Athlete Representation Requirement. The National Championships Appeal Committee will add the High School Section Representative in the case of all High School divisions. Upon receipt of the appeal, the National Championships Appeal Committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this National Championships Appeal Committee shall be final.

*E. Number and Qualification of Teams (NO CHANGES TO this section – excluded here for simplicity)*

*F. Entry Fees*

**(1) State/Affiliate and/or Districts**

Fees should be determined by the cost of running the event. The fee shall be submitted and approved by the national championship chair at least thirty (30) days prior to the state/affiliate and/or district championship. The tournament may charge an entry fee for each team and may not charge a gate. **Disabled Discipline fees are set by the Disabled Section.**

**(2) Nationals**

Each team at all national tournaments (Youth, Girls and High School) shall pay a tournament entry fee as determined by Section 2(J)(3)(i) of the National Championship Tournament Guidebook. **Disabled Discipline teams pay an entry fee prescribed by the Disabled Section.**

*G. Notification of Intent to Enter Team(s) (No Change)*

*H. Completion Dates (No Change)*

*I. Age Classifications*

*Disabled Discipline age classifications are in accordance with II – Classifications.*

All other requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments shall be set forth in the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook **or the Disabled Discipline event guidebook as relevant.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Include requirements for participation in the Sled and Warrior National Championships

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			
Youth			

Registrar			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 15 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XIII. International

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 221

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

All leagues, clubs, teams and persons under the jurisdiction of or under contract and/or license with USA Hockey, where such contracted and/or licensed body or person shall include any person or persons, organizations or leagues authorized by USA Hockey to organize ice hockey games, are as regards all international matters subject to the Statutes, Bylaws, Regulations/Codes, Official Playing Rules and related decisions of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) and undertake not to involve any third party whatsoever in the resolution of any dispute arising therefrom excepting where having exhausted the appeal procedures within the IIHF, in which case, such dispute may be submitted only to the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Anti-Doping and Integrity Bylaws and Regulations of the IIHF, specifically including but not limited to adherence to the World Anti-Doping Code and the IIHF Competition Manipulation Rules shall apply to USA Hockey.

**A. Games**

(1) All international matches are played under the jurisdiction of the International Ice Hockey Federation and the federation of the host country. IIHF playing rules shall be used.

(2) Only the national federation or the IIHF Executive Committee are authorized to arrange and organize international matches. No teams shall be permitted to deal directly with each other or with the federation of another country.

(3) Requests by United States-based teams, whether members of USA Hockey or not, must first be submitted to, and receive approval from, the Affiliate association of the district in which they are located, the appropriate registrar, USA Hockey International Council, the President or Executive Director of USA Hockey, and the IIHF, in that order.

(4) For games outside North America:

(a) Teams that have been members of USA Hockey for at least two years shall remit the application fee of \$150 (\$100 if submitted ninety (90) days or more before the first game).

(b) Teams that are not members of USA Hockey, or have been members for less than two years, shall remit an application fee of \$250 (\$200 if submitted ninety (90) days or more before the first game) payable to USA Hockey.

(c) Teams of junior classification and above will be required to post a cash bond, of an amount to be determined by the International Council, at least thirty (30) days prior to their departure from the United States. The bond shall be returned in full following a report from the host federation(s) and a copy of the scoresheets of all games played. Part or all of the bond may be withheld as penalty for conduct detrimental to the reputation of the United States, or USA Hockey, at the discretion of the International Council. There shall be no appeal of the council's decision.

(d) Applications must be approved by the Affiliate association, appropriate registrar, USA Hockey International Council, the President or Executive Director of USA Hockey and the IIHF, in that order.

(5) For games played in the United States:

(a) The application and approval fees shall be set by the USA Hockey International Council. An approval fee of \$100 per team is applicable for foreign teams playing games in the United States. No such application shall be processed until approval for the game has been given by the Affiliate association of the district in which the game or games are to be played, appropriate registrar, the Executive Director or the Assistant Executive Director of Hockey Operations of USA Hockey, in that order.

(b) The USA Hockey referee-in-chief, or his/her designee, shall appoint the referees and/or linesmen.

#### B. Transfer of Players (Except Juniors)

All transfers of players to or from foreign federations must be approved by the USA Hockey Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director of Hockey Operations. The transfer card fee is established annually for players transferring from USA Hockey to a federation outside North America, to be paid by the team requesting the transfer. In addition, foreign federations will charge USA Hockey an administrative fee as established annually by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). This fee must also be paid by the club requesting the transfer.

For information on transfers of Junior players, see Section XI: Junior Hockey.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike~~through)

**Add in the IPC/IPIH to this section where its relevant.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Include reference to IPC/IPIH

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
International			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 16 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XIV. Disabled Hockey

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Sled Hockey (Change to C.)

**Reference (sub-section):** 1. Minimum Disability Requirements

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 223

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

Sled hockey is played by a wide range of players with a variety of mobility and cognitive limitations which include, but are not limited to: amputees, spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, cerebral palsy along with anyone who has a permanent disability that limits participation in stand up hockey. Cognitive limitations are permitted and meet the minimum disability requirement as long as the disability prohibits participation in typical stand up hockey.

In order to meet the minimum disability requirement, an athlete must have a lasting disability that consistently prohibits that individual from playing typical stand up hockey as quantified by standard medical examination and/or testing. A doctor's signed diagnoses and support of play in sled hockey is required.

For participants in sled hockey with disabilities that may be perceived as not meeting the Minimum Disability Requirements will need to complete the Minimum Disability Form. If a player's disability is in question, the player, the player's family, or team coach/manager must provide a doctor's signed documentation along with their Minimum Disability Form completed. These must be provided at any time during competition. The Minimum Disability Form can be found online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules).

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

Sled hockey is played by a wide range of players with a variety of mobility and cognitive limitations **who have** which include, but are not limited to: amputees, spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, along with anyone who has a permanent disability that limits participation in stand up hockey. Cognitive limitations are permitted and meet the minimum disability requirement as long as the disability prohibits participation in typical stand up hockey.

~~In order to meet the minimum disability requirement, an athlete must have a lasting disability that consistently prohibits that individual from playing typical stand up hockey as quantified by standard medical examination and/or testing. A doctor's signed diagnoses and support of play in sled hockey is required.~~

~~For participants in sled hockey with disabilities that may be perceived as not meeting the Minimum Disability Requirements will need to complete the Minimum Disability Form. If a player's disability is in~~

~~question, the player, the player's family, or team coach/manager must provide a doctor's signed documentation along with their Minimum Disability Form completed. These must be provided at any time during competition. The Minimum Disability Form can be found online at usahockey.com/sledrules.~~

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update the preamble for the Sled Hockey section and remove language regarding minimum disability requirements

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			
SPEC			
Legal			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section  
**AFFILIATION:** Disabled Section

**EMAIL:** [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 17 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XIV. Disabled Hockey

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Sled Hockey (change to C.)

**Reference (sub-section):** 2. Youth Sled Hockey Age Guidelines and Age Waivers

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 223

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

The youth sled hockey division is for players 17 years of age and under as of December 31 of the current playing season. In addition, players that are 18 years old on December 31 of the current season, can play on youth sled hockey team if they have never played on any adult team in a USA Hockey sanctioned game.

Players that older than 17 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season and have participated in any USA Hockey sanctioned adult sled game and players older than 18 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season, may be allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division if a waiver request is submitted and approved by the Sled Hockey Age Waiver Committee.

All USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Teams are considered adult teams. Any player that has played with a USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team, including the U.S. Women’s Development Sled Hockey Team, will not be allowed to play on their youth team in sanctioned games and tournaments.

The purpose of this waiver is to allow players with more severe disabilities to play in the youth division where it is less physical and a slower pace. The determination on approved waivers is based on many factors, but the major consideration will be based on the on-ice ability of the player.

The Sled Hockey Age Waiver Committee will consist of at least two people appointed by the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section. A team manager, coach, or player must submit a waiver request each playing season. Waiver requests may be submitted whether the previous season waiver was approved or not.

Approved Sled Hockey Age Waivers are valid for the entire USA Hockey membership season. If the waiver request is approved, players will be permitted to play in any USA Hockey sanctioned game or tournament. Players with approved waivers are permitted to be dual rostered on a youth sled hockey team and an adult sled hockey team.

Sled hockey age waiver requests must be submitted by November 15 of the current playing season and must be submitted and approved prior to the player being allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division.

The process and guidelines for submitting a sled hockey age waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules) no later than August 1 each year.

If a sled hockey age waiver request is denied, a player or team manager may appeal by submitting all supporting documentation to the chair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section within seven (7) days of the original denial. A committee of six (6) members (not including the original members) including the disabled hockey section chair will review the appeal. A team manager, coach, or player that submits a waiver request appeal will receive a return email with a determination within ten (10) days of the waiver request submission and if approved an official letter of approval will be included. If still denied this decision is final. If, however, such denial is related to the eligibility to participate in the Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey, then an additional appeal may be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike~~through)

## 2. ~~Youth~~Sled Hockey Age Guidelines and Age Waivers

### **Age Guidelines**

The adult sled hockey division is for players 18 and older as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current playing season.

The youth sled hockey division is for players 17 and under as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current playing season. In addition, players who are 18 years old ~~on~~as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current **playing** season **and in their last year of high school or equivalent program can be rostered and play** ~~on~~ in the youth sled hockey ~~team~~ division if they have never played on any adult team in a USA Hockey-sanctioned game.

All USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Teams are considered adult teams. Any player ~~that~~ who has played with a USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team, including the U.S. Women's Development Sled Hockey Team, will not ~~be allowed~~ permitted to play on their youth team in sanctioned games and tournaments. **They may participate in practices with youth teams to serve as a leader or mentor.**

### **Youth to Adult Waivers**

**Youth sled players 15-17 years of age may be allowed to play on an adult sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the youth sled division upon submission and approval of a waiver. Once this age waiver is approved, the player remains eligible to play on an adult sled team until they are age-appropriate for that level. Annual waiver requests are not required. Players under 15 will not be permitted to play in the adult division.\***

**All players 17 and older on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of that playing season on the team where this under-aged player participates must have a valid SafeSport training completed before the player can join the team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration – A. Membership – for details.**

**Players in the youth division who are 15-17 years of age who are contemplating playing up to the adult division but are unsure if they're ready may roster and play on an adult team during the season for specific games and tournaments, with team and tournament director approval, to determine their appropriate path.\*\* Once a youth player has submitted and received approval from the Sled Hockey Fair Play Committee to roster an adult team, they will no longer be eligible to play on a youth team.**

**The waiver submission deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**\*An exception may be presented to the Sled Fair Play Committee for**

**consideration using the age waiver process.**

**\*\* Players must play over 50% of the in-season games in their age-specific divisions without an approved age waiver.**

### **Adult to Youth Waivers**

Players ~~that older than 17 years of age~~ as of December 31 of the current playing season and have participated in any USA Hockey sanctioned adult sled game and players older than 18 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season, may be allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division if a waiver request is submitted and approved by the Sled Hockey Age Waiver **Fair Play** Committee.

The purpose of this waiver is to allow players with more severe disabilities to play in the youth division, where it **competition** is less physical and **at** a slower pace. **The approval of this waiver** ~~determination on of approved waivers~~ is based on many factors, but the major consideration will be based on the on-ice ability of the player.

~~Sled hockey age waiver requests must be submitted by November 15~~ **The waiver submission deadline is December 31st** of the current playing season, and must be submitted and approved ~~prior to~~ before the player being allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division.

Approved Sled Hockey Age Waivers are valid for the entire USA Hockey membership season. If the waiver request is approved, players will be permitted to play in any USA Hockey sanctioned game or tournament. ~~Players with approved waivers are permitted to be dual rostered on a youth sled hockey team and an adult sled hockey team.~~ **Players are not permitted to be dual rostered during the same event/tournament. Once a player has been waived onto a youth or adult team, that player will no longer be eligible to be dual rostered for both divisions going forward.**

A team manager or coach must submit a waiver request each playing season. Waiver requests may be submitted, depending on whether the previous season's waiver was approved or not. The process and guidelines for submitting a sled hockey ~~age~~ waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules) ~~no later than August 1~~ each year. Submissions from individual players will not be accepted.

If a sled hockey age waiver request is denied, ~~a player or team manager~~ may appeal by submitting all supporting documentation **via email** to the chair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section within seven (7) days of the original denial. A committee of six (6) members (not including ~~the original~~ members **of the Fair Play Committee**) including the Disabled Hockey Section chair will review the appeal. The person submitting the waiver appeal ~~A team manager, coach, or player that submits a waiver request appeal~~ will receive a return email with a determination within ten (10) days of the waiver request submission and if approved, an official letter of approval will be included. If still denied, this decision is final. If, however, such denial is related to the eligibility to participate in the Sled National Championship, ~~Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey~~, then an additional appeal may be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).

### **The Sled Fair Play Committee**

The Sled Hockey Age Waiver **Fair Play** Committee will consist of at least ~~two~~ **three** people appointed by the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section **who represent the players and teams of the discipline. This committee shall review waivers, place teams in competitive brackets for the Sled Classic and National Tournament and other duties as relevant for the discipline.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update the Sled Age Waiver process.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled

**Section AFFILIATION:** Disabled Section

**EMAIL:** [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 18 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XIV. Disabled Hockey

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Sled Hockey (change to C.)

**Reference (sub-section):** 3. Sled Hockey Roster Eligibility

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 224

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

Without an approved sled hockey waiver, sled hockey players must be rostered and play with the sled team/program closest to them and have their primary current residence within a geographical area of a 100 miles driving distance of their sled hockey team's main practice facility (home rink). The player's closest sled team/program is determined by the distance in driving miles from the player's primary residence to the sled team's main practice facility (home rink).

Players cannot be dual rostered on two youth teams or two adult teams, but are permitted to be dual rostered on a youth team and adult team. Players will only be allowed to play and be rostered on one team at the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Festival.

Players under the age of 17 may play in the Adult Division, however, significant consideration should be given whether a younger player is ready and able to play in the adult division

Any deviation from the sled hockey roster eligibility rules, including players who do not reside within 100 miles driving distance or who wish to be dual rostered (i.e. league team and tournament team), must submit a Sled Hockey Waiver Request and be approved by the Sled Hockey Waiver Committee.

The process and guidelines for submitting a Sled Hockey Waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules) no later than August 1 each year.

Teams intending to participate in the Adult National Sled Championship or the Sled Hockey Classic, must follow the respective roster rules as published in the Disabled Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook which will be posted online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules) by August 1 each year.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike through~~)

**Sled hockey players will roster with their closest local team/program according to their place of residence (their home program). Players attending school or temporarily relocated for business or personal reasons during the season will consider their temporary address to determine their local team/program. USA Hockey recognizes that some programs may be some distance from a player. Regardless of the distance, the closest team/program to the player is where they are expected to**

**register and roster for all in-season and post-season play.**

~~Without an approved sled hockey waiver, sled hockey players must be rostered and play with the sled team/program closest to them and have their primary current residence within a geographical area of a 100 miles driving distance of their sled hockey team's main practice facility (home rink). The player's closest sled team/program is determined by the distance in driving miles from the player's primary residence to the sled team's main practice facility (home rink).~~

**Players may be permitted to be dual-rostered on two youth or two adult teams during the season only if the player's home program does not participate in a league or the player's home program does not have a team at the player's competition level. In both cases, the player may dual roster with the approval of both the home program and when appropriate, their league. Requests and approvals to dual roster will be handled by the teams/programs/leagues involved. The Sled Fair Play Committee will only review age waivers and manage the National Travel Roster.**

**A USA Hockey Sled National Travel Roster will be created for those players who wish to participate in the Sled National Championship in the case when their home program is not participating. Teams and programs must submit the names of those players interested in being added to the National Travel Roster on behalf of their players by not later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current playing season to the Sled Fair Play Committee. Submissions from individual players will not be accepted. Requests to be added to a specific participating program's roster may be accepted, but the Sled Fair Play Committee shall make the final decision on player placement in this instance.**

**Adult players wishing to participate in the Sled Classic Tournament will be rostered with a team that represents their closest NHL program. The Disabled Section will identify one official program per NHL team that will handle rosters for this event.**

**The Sled Fair Play Committee will only approve travel waivers for the Sled National Championship.**

**USA Disabled Hockey will provide programs/teams and tournament directors with the tools they need to collect and approve waivers for their events. A receipt of all players waived for games/events/tournaments will be submitted to the Sled Fair Play Committee that demonstrates that both the home program and the program the player will be waived onto have approved for that transaction to occur. Tournament directors are expected to follow all USA roster rules when approving waivers. Failure to follow the rules may result in disciplinary action up to the denial of any further sanctions requests.**

~~Players cannot be dual-rostered on two youth teams or two adult teams, but are permitted to be dual-rostered on a youth team and adult team. Players will only be allowed to play and be rostered on one team at the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Festival.~~

~~Players under the age of 17 may play in the Adult Division, however, significant consideration should be given whether a younger player is ready and able to play in the adult division. Any deviation from the sled hockey roster eligibility rules, including players who do not reside within 100 miles driving distance or who wish to be dual-rostered (i.e. league team and~~

tournament team), ~~must submit a Sled Hockey Waiver Request and be approved by the Sled Hockey Waiver Committee.~~

The process and guidelines for submitting a Sled Hockey Waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules) ~~no later than August 1~~ each year.

Teams intending to participate in the ~~Adult~~ National Sled Championship or the Sled Hockey Classic, must follow the respective roster rules as published in the Disabled Hockey ~~Tournament/Event Guidebook~~, **or the National Tournament Guidebook as appropriate** which will be posted online at [usahockey.com/sledrules](http://usahockey.com/sledrules) ~~by August 1~~ each year.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update the Sled roster eligibility process.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled

**Section AFFILIATION:** Disabled Section

**EMAIL:** [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 19 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XIV. Disabled Hockey

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Sled Hockey (Change to C.)

**Reference (sub-section):** 4. Able Bodied Players

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 225

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

Able-bodied players are not allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division for any USA Hockey sanctioned game involving two sled hockey teams. Able-bodied players are permitted to practice with a youth sled hockey team and are permitted to play in a game involving a sled hockey team versus an able-bodied team as long as the able-bodied players all are playing in sleds.

Adult sled hockey teams are permitted to dress and play three (3) able-bodied players in any given game and must be marked on the scoresheet with an "AB." Able-bodied players may not play the goalkeeper position.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**Three** able-bodied players are ~~not~~ allowed to play in the youth **and adult** sled hockey divisions for any USA Hockey sanctioned game **or practice** involving two sled hockey teams **provided they are not replacing a disabled player when one is identified and available. Only two able bodied player is permitted on the ice at one time. Able bodied players are not permitted to be goaltenders** . Able-bodied players are ~~permitted to practice with a youth sled hockey team and~~ are permitted to play in a game involving a sled hockey team versus an able-bodied team as long as the able-bodied players all are playing in sleds. **All able bodied players must be marked on the roster or scoresheet as "AB"**

~~Adult sled hockey teams are permitted to dress and play three (3) able-bodied players in any given game and must be marked on the scoresheet with an "AB." Able-bodied players may not play the goalkeeper position.~~

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update the Able bodied player access to teams.

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled**

**Section AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 20 - DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** RULES AND REGULATIONS

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** XIV. Disabled Hockey

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):** B. Disabled Hockey National Tournaments and Events

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 225

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct a Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and a Sled Classic, and may in its discretion conduct national championships or other events and tournaments in other disabled hockey disciplines. The rules and regulations governing eligibility and qualification as well as tournament-specific rules shall be published in the Disabled Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s), which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before September 1 of the current playing season. The Disabled Hockey Section will approve all such rules and regulations at the USA Hockey Annual Meeting, just prior to the applicable playing season. Any changes to the Disabled Hockey Tournament/ Event Guidebook(s) must be submitted to the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section by April 1 to be considered by the Disabled Hockey Section. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the Disabled Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s) shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of Sled Hockey National Championships, Disabled Hockey Festival, Sled Classic and other applicable events. Any appeal of eligibility of a team, coach or player to participate in these Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey, following a final decision by the applicable registrar or eligibility committee appointed by the Disabled Hockey Section, are not subject to Bylaw 10 and shall be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)**

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct a Sled National Championship, ~~Disabled Hockey Festival~~ **Warrior National Championship, a Warrior Classic**, a Sled Classic, **a Special Hockey Classic and a Blind Hockey Classic**, and may in its discretion conduct **other** national championships or ~~other~~ events and tournaments in ~~other~~ disabled hockey disciplines.

The rules and regulations governing eligibility and qualification as well as tournament-specific rules shall be published in the Disabled ~~Disciplines~~ Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s), which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey Disabled Disciplines website on or before September 1 **the**

**start** of the current playing season. **The Event Guidebook(s) may be published as separate documents for each Disabled Discipline or may be combined with the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook as appropriate.** The Disabled Hockey Section will approve all such ~~event~~ rules and regulations at the USA Hockey Annual Meeting, just prior to the applicable playing season. Any changes to the Disabled **Disciplines** Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s) must be submitted to the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section by April 1 to be considered **for consideration and ratification** by the Disabled Hockey Section **at the Annual meeting.** Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the Disabled **Disciplines** Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s) shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of **the Sled National Championship, Warrior National Championship, Warrior Classic, Sled Classic, Special Hockey Classic and Blind Hockey Classic** Sled Hockey National Championships, Disabled Hockey Festival, Sled Classic and other applicable events. Any appeal of eligibility of a team, coach or player to participate in these **events** Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey, following a final decision by the applicable registrar or eligibility committee appointed by the Disabled Hockey Section, are not subject to Bylaw 10 and shall be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update the events held and publication of event guidebooks

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – 21 - DISABLED SECTION

NAME OF PUBLICATION: RULES AND REGULATIONS

MAIN HEADING: Rules and Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): XIV. Disabled Hockey

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: F. Warrior Hockey

Reference (sub-section): NEW

Paragraph / Page no(s):

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

NEW SECTION

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**Warrior Hockey is dedicated to injured and disabled U.S. military veterans who have served our country and play the sport of ice hockey.**

**USA Hockey requires that all programs be fully sanctioned with all teams, players, volunteers, coaches and staff, fully registered with USA Hockey.**

**To be eligible, every player must have been discharged under "Honorable" conditions with the ability to provide official documentation from at least one of the six branches of service (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force) and/or their respective Reserve and/or National Guard components. Official documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs is also acceptable provided it shows "Honorable" character of service. Any exceptions must be approved by the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.**

**Players must also meet one of the following criteria for eligibility:**

**Players must possess a minimum of 0% combined service-connected disability through a Department of Veterans Affairs evaluation and show an "Honorable" character of service designation. Players must be able to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefit Letter showing this information.**

**Players who are recipients of a Purple Heart Award are eligible regardless of their current Department of Veterans Affairs combined service-connected disability status but must have been discharged from the service. Players must be able to provide their Department of Defense issued Purple Heart Medal Award citation along with a DD214 showing "Honorable" service.**

**3. Rosters cannot exceed 20 players.**

**Proof of eligibility must be presented for verification before team check-in at USA Hockey events. Eligibility documentation will not be accepted on site at an event. The USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section Chairperson in consultation with the Warrior Discipline representative must approve any exceptions to this eligibility criteria in advance of participation.**

**Warrior Hockey is played utilizing Adult Hockey playing rules.**

**All Warrior Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.**

**The Warrior Advisory Committee**

**The Warrior Advisory Committee will consist of at least three people appointed by the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section who represent the players and teams of the discipline. This committee shall review place teams in competitive brackets for the Warrior Classic and National Tournament and other duties as relevant for the discipline.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Add a Warrior Hockey section

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**  
**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – 22 - DISABLED SECTION

NAME OF PUBLICATION: RULES AND REGULATIONS

MAIN HEADING: Rules and Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): XIV. Disabled Hockey

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: A. Blind Hockey

Reference (sub-section): NEW

Paragraph / Page no(s):

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

NEW SECTION

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike~~through)

**Blind Ice Hockey is played similarly to typical hockey, with a few adaptations to make it accessible to players who are blind or visually impaired. The most significant adaptation is the puck, which makes noise and is larger and slower than a traditional hockey puck.**

**A blind hockey puck specification is:**

- **Material: 22-gauge steel**
- **Construction: Hollow**
- **Color: Black**
- **Contains: 8 ball bearings**
- **Diameter: 5 1/2 inches / 14 centimeters**
- **Height: 1 7/8 inches / 4.8 cm**
- **Weight: 7.76 ounces / 220 grams**

**The sport of Blind Hockey is played by athletes who are blind or visually impaired. Players must meet the criteria of one of the three International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) classifications or the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Recognized Low Vision Classification of B4. The criteria for each classification are below.**

**IBSA Class B1: There is no light perception in either eye up to light perception, but they are unable to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.**

**IBSA Class B2: From the ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.**

**IBSA Class B3: From visual acuity above 20/600 and up to visual acuity of 20/200 and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees and more than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.**

**USABA Recognized Low Vision Class B4: From visual acuity above 20/200 and up to visual acuity of 20/70 and a visual field larger than 20 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.**

**Blind hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.**

**All Blind Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Add a Blind Hockey section

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – 23 - DISABLED SECTION

NAME OF PUBLICATION: RULES AND REGULATIONS

MAIN HEADING: Rules and Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): XIV. Disabled Hockey

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: B. Deaf/Hearing Impaired Hockey

Reference (sub-section): NEW

Paragraph / Page no(s):

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

NEW SECTION

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**Deaf/Hard of Hearing Hockey is for individuals diagnosed with hearing loss. Instruction is based on the player’s ability to communicate with coaches using American Sign Language, lip reading, hearing aids, or cochlear implants. Interpreters may be used as needed and are welcome on the bench.**

**Eligibility for participation on a deaf/hearing impaired team requires that a player has at least a 55-decibel hearing loss in their better hearing ear. All other players need to be diagnosed with some hearing loss to participate.**

**Deaf/Hard of Hearing hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.**

**All Deaf/Hard of Hearing Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.**

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Add a Deaf/Hearing Impaired Hockey section

Submitter: Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – 24 - DISABLED SECTION

NAME OF PUBLICATION: RULES AND REGULATIONS

MAIN HEADING: Rules and Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): XIV. Disabled Hockey

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: D. Special Hockey

Reference (sub-section): NEW

Paragraph / Page no(s):

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

NEW SECTION

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strike~~through)

**Special hockey aims to give people with cognitive and/or developmental disabilities the opportunity to play ice hockey in an environment adapted to their level of ability. It emphasizes having fun through teamwork and social interaction and improving the quality of life through on- and off-ice activities.**

**Individuals with developmental disabilities who experience limitations in three or more major core life competencies: capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, learning, mobility, receptive and expressive language, and self-care/direction are eligible to play Special Hockey. Common developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to: Autism Spectrum disorders, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, ADD/ADHD, Seizures, Neurological disorders, and intellectual/developmental disabilities.**

**Special Hockey requires that players skate upright and unassisted. As such, assistive skating devices are not permitted during any games. However, players who are new to the sport and are developing their skating ability may use an assistive device on the ice during practice, provided its use does not endanger other participants on the ice.**

**Special Hockey players are rated as A, B and C based on their playing ability.**

**A Level**

- **Able to skate unassisted**
- **Able to play at a faster pace**
- **Able to play structured game with minimal to no assistance**
- **Has more advanced hockey skills**
- **Has better understanding of game rules and concepts**

- **Able to follow rules/instruction/drills**
- **Always engaged in the play**
- **Has the ability to change shifts on the fly**
- **Needs no prompting**
- **On-ice helpers are not permitted at this level.**

#### **B Level**

- **Able to skate unassisted**
- **Able to play at a mid-level pace**
- **Able to play structured game with minimal assistance**
- **Has mid-level hockey skills**
- **Has a basic understanding of game rules and concepts**
- **Able to follow rules/instruction/drills (occasional prompting may be needed)**
- **Mostly engaged in the play**
- **May need assistance in positioning**
- **May need occasional prompting**
- **On-ice helpers at this level are not permitted to have sticks on the ice. They must wear helmets in accordance with USA Hockey rules. They must be listed on the roster.**

#### **C Level**

- **May need assistance in skating**
- **Able to play at a slower pace**
- **Needs assistance to play a structured game**
- **Has lower level hockey skills**
- **Has limited understanding of game rules and concepts**
- **Has difficulty following rules/instruction/drills**
- **May need some/constant prompting to engage in the play**
- **Needs assistance in positioning**
- **On-ice helpers at this level are not permitted to have sticks on the ice. They must wear helmets in accordance with USA Hockey rules. They must be listed on the roster.**

**Special hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.**

**All Special Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Add a Special Hockey section

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section

**AFFILIATION:** Disabled Section

**EMAIL:** [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – 25 - DISABLED SECTION

NAME OF PUBLICATION: RULES AND REGULATIONS

MAIN HEADING: Rules and Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): XIV. Disabled Hockey

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: E. Standing Amputee Hockey

Reference (sub-section): NEW

Paragraph / Page no(s):

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

NEW SECTION

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**Standing Amputee hockey is played upright and follows typical ice hockey rules. It has allowed a growing number of athletes with congenital or acquired amputations or other physical impairments to participate. Players use prostheses to control a hockey stick or to skate.**

**Players may be added to Standing Amputee rosters if they are missing one or more upper or lower extremities.**

**Standing Amputee hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.**

**All Standing Amputee Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.**

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Add a Standing Amputee Hockey section

Submitter: Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – 26 – DISABLED SECTION

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:**

**MAIN HEADING: XV. USA Hockey Duties and Responsibilities**

**REGULATION (Heading): *F. Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives***

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s): 237**

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

The duties and responsibilities of a Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives shall be, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assist with the affairs of the Disabled Hockey Section in cooperation with USA Hockey District/Affiliate Associations and the USA Hockey Board of Directors and assume other responsibilities as may be appropriate when possible.
- Serve as the first contact from their respective district/disciplines to the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.
- Act as USA Hockey’s troubleshooter in his/her respective district/disciplines and facilitate the resolution of disputes within/between the various member organizations in his/her district/disciplines and with any USA Hockey Affiliate association(s).  
Serve as liaison between the various member organizations within their respective district/disciplines and USA Hockey.
- Attend the annual meetings of the various member organizations and the USA Hockey district/affiliate association(s) on behalf of his/her district/discipline when possible.
- Disseminate information from the USA Hockey national office to all member organizations within his/her district/disciplines.
- Attend the USA Hockey Annual Meeting and the Winter Meeting.
- Inform USA Hockey, and the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section when any USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations are not being complied with.
- Perform any other duties as may be directed by the chair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.
- Encourage all teams within his/her district/disciplines to register with USA Hockey.
- Assist new teams and organizations.
- Disseminate information from USA Hockey national office, actions of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.
- Forward respective district/disciplines newsworthy items to the USA Hockey national office for publication in the USA Hockey Magazine and website.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)**

The duties and responsibilities of a Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives shall be, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assist with the affairs of the Disabled Hockey Section in cooperation with USA Hockey District/Affiliate Associations and the USA Hockey Board of Directors and assume other responsibilities as may be appropriate when possible.
- Serve as the ~~first contact~~ **representative** from their respective ~~district/disciplines~~ **District/Discipline** to the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.
- ~~Act as USA Hockey's troubleshooter in his/her respective district/disciplines and facilitate the resolution of disputes within/between the various member organizations in his/her district/disciplines and with any USA Hockey Affiliate association(s).~~
- Serve as liaison between the various member organizations within their respective ~~district/disciplines~~ **District/Discipline** and USA Hockey.
- Attend the annual meetings of the various member organizations and the USA Hockey ~~d~~**District/a**Affiliate association(s) on behalf of ~~their his/her district/disciplines~~ **District/Discipline** when possible.
- Disseminate information from the USA Hockey national office to all member organizations within ~~their his/her district/disciplines~~ **District/Discipline**.
- Attend the USA Hockey Annual Meeting and the Winter Meeting. **Three consecutive absences may be grounds for replacement.**
- Inform ~~USA Hockey, and the e~~Chair of the Disabled Hockey Section when any USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations are not being complied with.
- Perform any other duties as may be directed by the ~~e~~Chair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.
- Encourage all **programs/teams** within ~~their his/her district/disciplines~~ **District/Discipline** to register **and roster** with USA Hockey.
- Assist new teams and organizations **which may include establishing governance, educating about the benefits and rules of USA Hockey and connecting the new team/organization with other programs in close proximity for games, etc., and utilizing resources within the Disabled Section and the National office as needed.**
- Disseminate information from ~~the~~ USA Hockey national office, **including** actions of ~~the~~ **Congress and the** Executive ~~Committee and~~ Board of Directors.
- Forward respective ~~district/disciplines~~ **District/Discipline** newsworthy items to the USA Hockey national office for publication in the USA Hockey Magazine and website.
- **To serve as the tournament co-director for District, regional and national tournaments held within their District.**
- **Perform duties timely as assigned by the Chair of the Disabled Section to maintain operating and playing rules, education resources and other items as necessary to provide clear and current guidance to the Disabled Hockey community.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update roles and responsibilities of members of the Disabled Section

**Submitter:** Maureen Thompson-Siegel on behalf of the Disabled Section

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Disabled			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

**YES (NO) (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section Chair, on behalf of the Disabled Section**

**AFFILIATION: Disabled Section**

**EMAIL: [mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org](mailto:mthompson-siegel@aahahockey.org) or [thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsiegel.usahdisabled@gmail.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Governance #1

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Bylaws

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): 4.B. Congress

Section: (1) District Representatives

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): Page 70

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**(1) District Representatives**

- (a) Persons in the Congress elected to represent Districts are referred to herein as "**District Representatives.**" Each District of USA Hockey shall be represented in the Congress by one (1) District Representative who shall represent the Registered Participant Members of their District. Districts registering more than 10,000 but less than 20,000 paid Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a second Representative; Districts registering more than 20,000 but less than 28,000 Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a third District Representative. Districts registering more than 28,000 paid Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a fourth District Representative. No District shall be entitled to more than four (4) District Representatives.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**(1) District Representatives**

- (a) Persons in the Congress elected to represent Districts are referred to herein as "**District Representatives.**" Each District of USA Hockey shall be represented in the Congress by one (1) District Representative who shall represent the Registered Participant Members of their District. Districts registering more than 10,000 but less than 20,000 paid Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a second Representative; Districts registering more than 20,000 but less than 28,000 **paid** Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a third District Representative. Districts registering more than 28,000 paid Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a fourth District Representative. No District shall be entitled to more than four (4) District Representatives.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping for consistency.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**   **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett

**AFFILIATION:** Governance subcommittee\_

**EMAIL:** usahlegalvp@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Governance #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 4.C. Election of Representatives

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page 73-74

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

No Current Language

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*Add New Subsection (8) titled "Filling Vacancies in Congress"*

**(8) Filling Vacancies on the Congress**

In the event of a vacancy in a position in the Congress caused by the resignation, removal or withdrawal of any Representative, or such person is unable to complete their full term of service for which they were elected, such position may be filled for the remainder of the term in the manner set forth below for each position:

- (a) Officer positions shall be filled in the manner set forth in Bylaw 5.A(3).
- (b) District Representatives shall be filled by a vote of the applicable governing authority for such District.
- (c) Section Representatives shall be filled by a vote of the voting representatives of the applicable Section, except that the Professional Hockey Organizations Section shall appoint their Representative.
- (d) Representatives At-Large shall be filled by a vote of the Congress at its next meeting.
- (e) The Affiliate Presidents Representative shall be filled by a vote of the Affiliate Presidents Committee at its next meeting.
- (f) The Independent Representative shall be filled by a vote of the Board of Directors at the Board's next meeting.
- (g) The Athlete Representatives shall be filled in the manner set forth in Bylaw 4.C.(6).

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To incorporate a provision for filling a vacancy that was not addressed in prior Governance work.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**    **NO**    (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett

**AFFILIATION:** Governance subcommittee\_

**EMAIL:** usahlegalvp@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Governance #3

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Duties & Responsibilities

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section:

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): Page 229-239

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

All Sections of Duties & Responsibilities

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**XV. USA HOCKEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

\*\*\*\*\*

*B. Registrars*

**(1) District Registrars**

\*\*\*\*\*

**(e) His/Her duties shall be:**

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Disseminate information from the USA Hockey national office, actions of the Executive Director, actions of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Congress** and Board of Directors.

\*\*\*\*\*

17. **Annual Budget:** Registrars must prepare and submit an annual budget to the Executive Director for review by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the registrars during the year on a monthly basis. The registrars are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the district's approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director before they are paid by the registrar.

\*\*\*\*\*

*C. Referees-in-Chief*

\*\*\*\*\*

**(2) Referees-in-Chief**

- (a) There shall be one referee-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one referee-in-chief for female development and one referee-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- (b) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).

\*\*\*\*\*

*D. Coaches-in-Chief*

\*\*\*\*\*

**(2) District Coaches-in-Chief**

- (a) There shall be one coach-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one coach-in-chief for female development and one coach-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- (b) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).

\*\*\*\*\*

**(g) His/Her duties shall be:**

\*\*\*\*\*

- 4. **Annual Budget:** Coaches-in-chief must prepare and submit an annual budget for review by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the coaches-in-chief during the year on a monthly basis. The coaches-in-chief are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the district's approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director or CEP Director, before they are paid to the coach-in-chief.

\*\*\*\*\*

*E. Risk Managers*

\*\*\*\*\*

**(2) District Risk Managers**

- (a) There shall be one risk manager for each district and one national disabled hockey risk manager.
- (b) He/She shall be nominated by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).

\*\*\*\*\*

- 18. **Annual Budget:** Risk managers must prepare and submit an annual budget to the Executive Director for review by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the risk managers during the year on a monthly basis. The risk managers are required to submit a monthly expense

reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director or designees of USA Hockey before they can be paid.

\*\*\*\*\*

***F. Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives***

The duties and responsibilities of a Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives shall be, but not be limited to, the following:

\*\*\*\*\*

- Disseminate information from USA Hockey national office, actions of the Executive-Committee **Congress** and Board of Directors.

\*\*\*\*\*

***G. Player Safety Coordinator***

- (1) There shall be one player safety coordinator for each district.
- (2) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Executive-Committee **Board of Directors**. Districts or SPEC should submit names for the district position (up to three).

\*\*\*\*\*

**(6) His/Her duties shall be:**

\*\*\*\*\*

- (e) **Annual Budget:** Player Safety Coordinators must prepare and submit an annual budget for review by the Executive-Committee **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the player safety coordinator during the year on a monthly basis. The player safety coordinators are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the district's approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director or Manager of Player Safety, before they are paid to the player safety coordinator.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping to correct references to Executive Committee.

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett

**AFFILIATION:** Governance subcommittee\_

**EMAIL:** usahlegalvp@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Governance #4

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 4.C. Election of Representatives and 4.E

**Section:** 4.C.(6) Athlete Representatives and 4.E.(3) Athlete Directors

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page 74 and 76

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**4.C.(6) Athlete Representatives**

Each Athlete Representative shall be elected by a representative democratic election held by Eligible Athletes to staggered three (3) year terms. The Athlete Directors elected under Bylaw 4.E.(3) shall be eight (8) of the Athlete Representatives, with the remaining nine (9) Athlete Representatives being elected from such number of 10 Year Athletes and 10+ Year Athletes candidates as are required to meet the Athlete Representation Requirement. The election of athletes to fill the required 10 Year Athlete positions shall be held first, followed by the election to fill the positions that may be held by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes. In the event that an Athlete Representative shall be unable, for any reason, to serve his/her full term then the Athlete Advisory Committee may immediately appoint an Athlete Representative from a list of 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes (based on the Athlete Representative being replaced) to serve for the unexpired term of the Athlete Representative being replaced provided that, any vacancy in a position as an AAC Representative or AAC Alternate Representative shall be filled as required by the bylaws or policies of the USOPC AAC.

**4.E.(3) Athlete Directors**

\*\*\*\*\*

(b) Each Athlete Director shall be elected by a representative democratic election held by 10 Year Athletes. Each Athlete Director shall be elected to staggered three (3) year terms. In the event that an Athlete Director shall be unable, for any reason, to serve his/her full term, then the Athlete Advisory Committee may immediately appoint an Athlete Director from a list of Eligible Athletes to serve for the unexpired term of the Athlete Director being replaced provided that, any vacancy in a position as an AAC Representative or AAC Alternate Representative shall be filled as required by the bylaws or policies of the USOPC AAC. Effective as of the elections occurring at the 2024 Annual Meeting, no Athlete Director can serve as an Athlete Director for more than three consecutive terms, provided that a person elected to serve a portion

of an Athlete Director's unexpired term shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter.

- (c) Election of 10 Year Athletes to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Athletes Advisory Council (AAC).
1. Athlete Directors will elect A 10 Year Athlete as: (i) an Athlete Director ("AAC Representative") to represent USA Hockey on the Athletes' Advisory Council ("AAC") of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and (ii) an Athlete Director to serve as the AAC Representative's alternate ("AAC Alternate Representative").
  2. The Athlete Advisory Committee shall elect the AAC Representative and AAC Alternate in compliance with any requirements of the AAC Bylaws and AAC Member Elections and Voting Policy.
  3. The AAC Representative shall serve at the minimum a full (or partial, if applicable) quad, and at the maximum, if re-elected pursuant to Section 1 above, two quads. For purposes of this section, "quad" shall mean the period between and including two consecutive Summer Olympic Games.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)** (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

#### **4.C.(6) Athlete Representatives**

Each Athlete Representative shall be elected by a representative democratic election held by Eligible Athletes to staggered three (3) year terms. The Athlete Directors elected under Bylaw 4.E.(3) shall be eight (8) of the Athlete Representatives, with the remaining nine (9) Athlete Representatives being elected from such number of 10 Year Athletes and 10+ Year Athletes candidates as are required to meet the Athlete Representation Requirement. ~~The election of athletes to fill the required 10 Year Athlete positions shall be held first, followed by the election to fill the positions that may be held by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes.~~ **The election of the Athlete Directors who are also Athlete Representatives shall be held first, followed by the election of the Athlete Representatives. In each election, the 10 Year Athlete positions shall be filled by the 10 Year Athlete(s) receiving the highest number of votes, and the remaining positions that may be filled by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes shall be filled by the persons receiving the most votes from among either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes.** In the event that an Athlete Representative shall be unable, for any reason, to serve his/her full term then the Athlete Advisory Committee may immediately appoint an Athlete Representative from a list of 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes (based on the Athlete Representative being replaced) to serve for the unexpired term of the Athlete Representative being replaced provided that, any vacancy in a position as an AAC Representative or AAC Alternate Representative shall be filled as required by the bylaws or policies of the USOPC AAC.

#### **4.E.(3) Athlete Directors**

\*\*\*\*\*

- (b) Each Athlete Director shall be elected by a representative democratic election held by 10 Year Athletes. Each Athlete Director shall be elected to staggered three (3) year terms. **In each election, the 10 Year Athlete positions shall be filled by the 10 Year Athlete(s) receiving the highest number of votes, and the remaining positions that may be filled by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes shall be filled by the persons receiving the most votes from among either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes.** In the event that an

Athlete Director shall be unable, for any reason, to serve his/her full term, then the Athlete Advisory Committee may immediately appoint an Athlete Director from a list of Eligible Athletes to serve for the unexpired term of the Athlete Director being replaced provided that, any vacancy in a position as an AAC Representative or AAC Alternate Representative shall be filled as required by the bylaws or policies of the USOPC AAC. Effective as of the elections occurring at the 2024 Annual Meeting, no Athlete Director can serve as an Athlete Director for more than three consecutive terms, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an Athlete Director's unexpired term shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter.

- (c) Election of 10 Year Athletes to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Athletes Advisory Council (AAC).
  - 1. ~~Athlete Directors~~ **The Eligible Athletes who are 10 Year Athletes** will elect ~~A~~ **a** 10 Year Athlete as: (i) an Athlete Director ("AAC Representative") to represent USA Hockey on the Athletes' Advisory Council ("AAC") of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and (ii) an Athlete Director to serve as the AAC Representative's alternate ("AAC Alternate Representative").
  - 2. The ~~Athlete Advisory Committee shall elect the~~ AAC Representative and AAC Alternate **shall be elected** in compliance with any requirements of the AAC Bylaws and AAC Member Elections and Voting Policy.
  - 3. The AAC Representative shall serve at the minimum a full (or partial, if applicable) quad, and at the maximum, if re-elected pursuant to Section 1 above, two quads. For purposes of this section, "quad" shall mean the period between and including two consecutive Summer Olympic Games.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To make athlete elections simpler rather than having to conduct four separate elections each year.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			
Athlete Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett

**AFFILIATION:** Governance subcommittee\_

**EMAIL:** usahlegalvp@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Please type or print all information. *(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)*
- When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.
- Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be **on or before April 1, 2025.**
- E-mail to: [emily.mcquire@usahockey.org](mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org) and [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)
- Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.
- Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.
- You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Governance #5

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 4.F. Powers of Board

8. A. Procedure for Placing Items on Agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting

12. Amendments

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Pages 80, 109-113 and 145-146

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

***F. Powers of Board***

\*\*\*\*\*

- (15) The Board of Directors shall be empowered to act on the behalf of the Congress on matters within the authority of the Congress between meetings of the Congress provided that (a) the Board shall not have the authority to amend, alter, or repeal the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations, -but may recommend such changes to the Congress for consideration and (b) the Board shall have the authority to amend, alter or repeal Rules and Regulations only in the case of an emergency when a vote of the Congress cannot reasonably be obtained, and in such event the action taken by the Board shall be placed on the agenda at the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.

**8. MEETINGS OF THE USA HOCKEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE CONGRESS**

***A. Procedure for Placing Items on the Agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting:***

- (1) Proposed changes, additions or deletions to USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Programs and Philosophies, Policies, Duties and Responsibilities and/or Affiliate Agreement [Annual Guide].
- (a) Commencing in January 2024, those matters referenced in subsection (1) above may only be changed or modified every two (2) years and in even numbered years thereafter. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting that will be a change, addition or deletion to those matters referred to in subsection (1) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than April 1 of the year preceding the rule-change year. Items submitted must include the specific wording of the proposed change, addition or deletion. The following procedure must then be followed:

1. April 1 – Received in the USA Hockey national office.
2. May 1 – Post on the USA Hockey website and mail or email to the Board of Directors, Representatives to the USA Hockey Congress and Affiliate Presidents.
3. May 15 – Proposals made by the President or Board after April 1 shall be accepted and posted on the USA Hockey website and mailed or emailed to the Board of Directors, Congress Representatives and Affiliate Presidents.
4. June Meeting (Annual Meeting)
  - a. Review and discuss by appropriate Councils, Sections and/or Committees.
  - b. Review, discuss and amend by the USA Hockey Congress.
  - c. Withdraw any proposals at the request of the person submitting the proposal.
  - d. Cause any proposals to be defeated at the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Congress Representatives present at such meeting.
5. September 1 – Post the final proposals on the USA Hockey website and mail or email to the Board of Directors, Congress Representatives and Affiliate Presidents.
6. January Meeting (Winter Meeting) – Vote on the proposals by the USA Hockey Congress at the USA Hockey Winter Meeting. If a proposal is amended and it is determined by the procedure below to be a major amendment, then the proposal, as amended, will be postponed until the next meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. If there is an amendment (motion and a second) to any rule or legislative proposal, the proposed amendment is considered first. If the amendment does not pass, the proposal will remain on the table in its original form. If the amendment passes, then consideration of whether the amendment is a minor or major amendment may be made at any time before the final vote on the proposal. If, by a majority vote of the Congress Representatives present, the Congress Representatives determine that the amendment is a major amendment, then the entire proposal, as amended, will be postponed until the next meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. If the Congress Representatives determine that the amendment is a minor amendment, then the proposal as amended may remain on the table for consideration during that meeting of the USA Hockey Congress.
7. Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Bylaws, and Duties and Responsibilities adopted at a January Meeting (Winter Meeting) shall be effective as of the close of the Winter Meeting following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions. Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations, and Programs, Philosophies, and Policies shall be effective on April 1 following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions.
8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, changes to the Rules and Regulations made by the Board of Directors, pursuant to these Bylaws, in between meetings of the USA Hockey Congress shall automatically be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.

\*\*\*\*\*

- (3) Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting, other than stated in (1) and (2) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than November 1. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Annual Meeting, other than

stated in (1) and (2) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than April 1.

- (4) Items submitted for the agenda of the Annual Meeting or Winter Meeting must also be sent by the submitter to the chair of the appropriate Council, Committee and Section along with a single paragraph explaining the intent and purpose of the proposal. Any item submitted by a member shall have attached to it the proof of submission of the proposed item to their Affiliate Association or District organization.-The complete agenda for the Winter Meeting will be published by the principal office of USA Hockey not later than December 15. The complete agenda for the Annual Meeting will be published by the principal office of USA Hockey not later than April 15.
- (5) Any item determined by the Board of Directors to be in the same form, or substantially similar form, to one which was rejected or withdrawn at the previous Winter Meeting, cannot be placed on the agenda of the upcoming Winter Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress, unless it has received a two-thirds majority vote of approval by the (i) Board or appropriate Council, Committee or Section and (ii) the Congress, in that order, recommending that it be placed on the agenda.
- (6) After the appropriate timeline to receive agenda items, any additional items that are to receive consideration of the USA Hockey Congress must receive two-thirds approval of those present at the Congress meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.
- (7) Proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey shall be made by the USA Hockey Congress in even numbered years only, provided, however, proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations may be made annually if approved by the appropriate Council, Committee or Section and approved by the Board of Directors.

## **12. AMENDMENTS**

- A.** Amendments to these Bylaws shall only be made every two years commencing in ~~2014~~ and shall be made only at a Winter Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress held in even-numbered years, provided, however, that amendments to these Bylaws may also be made at a Winter Meeting held in an odd-numbered year if approved by the appropriate USA Hockey council or committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Amendment in any year shall be permitted only after specific notice to the principal office of USA Hockey in writing pursuant to the provisions of Bylaws 7 and 8 herein. The principal office of USA Hockey shall communicate such proposed amendments or alterations to each director by May 1 prior to such Annual Meeting. All amendments to these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the USA Hockey Congress under the authority granted in Bylaw 4, and compliance with Bylaw 8.
- B.** The Executive Director shall notify all Congress Representatives of any changes in the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey within thirty (30) days of the date of the change.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*F. Powers of Board*

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(15) The Board of Directors shall be empowered to act on the behalf of the Congress on matters within the authority of the Congress between meetings of the Congress provided that (a) the Board shall not have the authority to amend, alter, or repeal the Bylaws, **Policies, Programs & Philosophies** or **Affiliate Agreement**, Rules and Regulations, but may recommend such changes to the Congress for consideration and (b) **upon recommendation by the applicable Council, Committee or Section**, the Board shall have the authority to amend, alter or repeal Rules and Regulations **between meetings of the Congress if the Board determines the change is needed immediately** ~~only in the case of an emergency when a vote of the Congress cannot reasonably be obtained,~~ and in such event the action taken by the Board shall be placed on the agenda at the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.

**8. MEETINGS OF THE USA HOCKEY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE CONGRESS**

*A. Procedure for Placing Items on the Agenda for the  
USA Hockey Winter Meeting:*

- (1) Proposed changes, additions or deletions to USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Programs and Philosophies, Policies, Duties and Responsibilities and/or Affiliate Agreement [Annual Guide].
  - (a) Commencing in January ~~2024~~**2026**, those matters referenced in subsection (1) above may only be changed or modified every two (2) years and in even numbered years thereafter, **except as provided in Section A.(1)(b) or (c) below or Bylaw 4.F(15)**. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting that will be a change, addition or deletion to those matters referred to in subsection (1) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than April 1 of the year preceding the rule-change year. Items submitted must include the specific wording of the proposed change, addition or deletion. The following procedure must then be followed:
    1. April 1 – Received in the USA Hockey national office.
    2. May 1 – Post on the USA Hockey website and mail or email to the Board of Directors, Representatives to the USA Hockey Congress and Affiliate Presidents.
    3. May 15 – Proposals made by the President or Board after April 1 shall be accepted and posted on the USA Hockey website and mailed or emailed to the Board of Directors, Congress Representatives and Affiliate Presidents.
    4. June Meeting (Annual Meeting)
      - a. Review and discuss by appropriate Councils, Sections and/or Committees.
      - b. Review, discuss and amend by the USA Hockey Congress.
      - c. Withdraw any proposals at the request of the person submitting the proposal.
      - d. Cause any proposals to be defeated at the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Congress Representatives present at such meeting.

5. September 1 – Post the final proposals on the USA Hockey website and mail or email to the Board of Directors, Congress Representatives and Affiliate Presidents.
6. January Meeting (Winter Meeting) – Vote on the proposals by the USA Hockey Congress at the USA Hockey Winter Meeting. If a proposal is amended and it is determined by the procedure below to be a major amendment, then the proposal, as amended, will be postponed until the next meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. If there is an amendment (motion and a second) to any rule or legislative proposal, the proposed amendment is considered first. If the amendment does not pass, the proposal will remain on the table in its original form. If the amendment passes, then consideration of whether the amendment is a minor or major amendment may be made at any time before the final vote on the proposal. If, by a majority vote of the Congress Representatives present, the Congress Representatives determine that the amendment is a major amendment, then the entire proposal, as amended, will be postponed until the next meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. If the Congress Representatives determine that the amendment is a minor amendment, then the proposal as amended may remain on the table for consideration during that meeting of the USA Hockey Congress.
7. Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Bylaws, and Duties and Responsibilities adopted at a January Meeting (Winter Meeting) shall be effective as of the close of the Winter Meeting following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions. Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations, and Programs, & Philosophies, and Policies shall be effective on April 1 following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions. **Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the Affiliate Agreement shall be effective on September 1 following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions.**
8. ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, changes to the Rules and Regulations made by the Board of Directors, pursuant to these Bylaws, in between meetings of the USA Hockey Congress shall automatically be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.~~
  - (b) **Notwithstanding the provisions of Section A.(1)(a) above, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Bylaws or Affiliate Agreement may be made at any meeting of the Congress so long as the proposal (i) is required for USA Hockey's compliance with the requirements of the USOPC, US Center for SafeSport, the IIHF or applicable law, (ii) has been approved by the Legal Council and by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, and (iii) provided to the Congress no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Congress meeting.**
  - (c) **Notwithstanding the provisions of Section A.(1)(a) above, changes, additions or deletions to the Programs & Philosophies, Policies, and Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey may be made annually if approved by the appropriate Council, Committee or Section and approved by the Board of Directors. Further, changes to the Rules and Regulations made by the Board of Directors, pursuant to Bylaw 4.F(15), in between meetings of the USA Hockey Congress shall automatically be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.**

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- (3) Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting, other than stated in (1) and (2) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than November 1. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Annual Meeting, other than stated in (1) and (2) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than April 1.
- (4) Items submitted for the agenda of the Annual Meeting or Winter Meeting must also be sent by the submitter to the chair of the appropriate Council, Committee and Section along with a single paragraph explaining the intent and purpose of the proposal **and any budgetary impact**. ~~Any item submitted by a member shall have attached to it the proof of submission of the proposed item to their Affiliate Association or District organization.~~ The complete agenda for the Winter Meeting will be published by the principal office of USA Hockey not later than December 15. The complete agenda for the Annual Meeting will be published by the principal office of USA Hockey not later than April 15.
- (5) Any item determined by the Board of Directors to be in the same form, or substantially similar form, to one which was rejected or withdrawn at the previous Winter Meeting, cannot be placed on the agenda of the upcoming Winter Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress, unless it has received a two-thirds majority vote of approval by the (i) Board or appropriate Council, Committee or Section and (ii) the Congress, in that order, recommending that it be placed on the agenda.
- (6) After the appropriate timeline to receive agenda items, any additional items that are to receive consideration of the USA Hockey Congress must receive two-thirds approval of those present at the Congress meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.
- ~~(7) Proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey shall be made by the USA Hockey Congress in even-numbered years only, provided, however, proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations may be made annually if approved by the appropriate Council, Committee or Section and approved by the Board of Directors.~~

## 12. AMENDMENTS

- A. Amendments to these Bylaws shall only be made every two years commencing in ~~2014-~~ **2026** and shall be made only at a Winter Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress held in even-numbered years, provided, however, that amendments to these Bylaws may also be made at a Winter Meeting held in an odd-numbered year if **any meeting of the Congress so long as the proposal (i) is required for USA Hockey's compliance with the requirements of the USOPC, US Center for SafeSport, the IIHF or applicable law, (ii) has been** approved by the **Legal Council** ~~appropriate USA Hockey council or committee~~ and approved by **a two-thirds vote of** the Board of Directors **and (iii) provided to the Congress no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Congress meeting**. Amendments ~~in any year~~ shall be permitted only after specific notice to the principal office of USA Hockey in writing pursuant to the provisions of Bylaws 7 and 8 herein. The principal office of USA Hockey shall communicate such proposed amendments or alterations to each director ~~by May 1 prior to such Annual Meeting~~ **according to the timeline in Bylaw 8**. All amendments to these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the USA Hockey Congress under the authority granted in Bylaw 4, and compliance with Bylaw 8.

- B.** The Executive Director shall notify all Congress Representatives of any changes in the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey within thirty (30) days of the date of the change.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To allow for changes to Bylaws or Affiliate Agreement at any meeting of the Congress if it is required for compliance with the USOPC, Center for SafeSport or IIHF requirements, and changes to the Rules & Regulations, Policies and Philosophies may be made annually if approved by the applicable Council or Committee, or by the Board between meetings, subject to Congress ratification.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Adult Council			
Membership Council			
Junior Council			
International Council			
Athlete Advisory Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**    **NO**    (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett

**AFFILIATION:** Governance subcommittee \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** usahlegalvp@gmail.com \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Governance #6

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 4.B.(5) Independent Representative

4.C.(5) Independent Representative

4.E.(6) Independent Director

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Pages 71, 74 and 76

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**4.B.(5) Independent Representative**

There shall be one (1) Independent Representative to the USA Hockey Congress. The person meeting the requirements to be an Independent Director of USA Hockey, as set forth in Bylaw 4.E.(7) shall also serve as the Independent Representative.

**4.C.(5) Independent Representative**

The Independent Representative to the Congress shall be elected in the manner as set forth in Bylaw 4.E.(7).

**4.E.(6) Independent Director**

The Board of Directors shall elect an Independent Director at the Winter Meeting in 2023 to an initial term expiring at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in 2025, and thereafter the Independent Director shall serve for a three (3) year term. An individual will not be eligible to serve as an Independent Director if, within the twenty-four months preceding election: (i) such individual or an immediate family member of such individual is/was employed by or held any governance position (whether a paid or volunteer position) with USA Hockey, any District or Affiliate of USA Hockey or the IIHF; (ii) such individual is/was affiliated with or employed by USA Hockey's outside auditor or outside counsel, or an immediate family member of such individual is/was affiliated with or employed by USA Hockey's outside auditor or outside counsel as a partner, principal, or manager; (iii) such individual is/was a member of USA Hockey's Athletes Advisory Committee; (iv) such individual is/was a member of any constituent group with representation on the USA Hockey Board of Directors; (v) such individual receives or received any compensation from USA Hockey, directly or indirectly, or its Districts, Affiliates (other than reimbursement for approved expenses reasonably incurred as part of their Board duties); (vi) the individual is/was an executive officer, controlling shareholder, or partner of a corporation or partnership or other business entity that does business with USA Hockey; (vii) the individual is/was the parent or close family member or coach of an athlete that has competed in a Protected Competition; or (viii) the

individual is/was a member of USA Hockey in a membership category that participates in Protected Competitions. The Independent Director must maintain an independent perspective by maintaining the requirements above for their entire term and any successive term, with exceptions related to their service on the Board. The Nominating Committee shall solicit individuals for the Independent Director fulfilling these criteria and submit such nominations to the Board of Directors no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. A person may not serve as an Independent Director for longer than three consecutive terms, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an unexpired term as an Independent Director shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)** (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**4.B.(5) Independent Representative**

There shall be one (1) Independent Representative to the USA Hockey Congress. The person meeting the requirements to be an Independent Director of USA Hockey, as set forth in Bylaw 4.E.(76) shall also serve as the Independent Representative.

**4.C.(5) Independent Representative**

The Independent Representative to the Congress shall be elected in the manner as set forth in Bylaw 4.E.(76).

**4.E.(6) Independent Director**

~~The Board of Directors shall elect an Independent Director at the Winter Meeting in 2023 to an initial term expiring at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in 2025, and thereafter the Independent Director shall serve for a three (3) year term.~~ **The incumbent Independent Director shall continue to serve in office until expiration of the term at the conclusion of the 2028 Annual Meeting. Beginning with the Independent Director election at the 2028 Annual Meeting, the Independent Director shall be elected by the USA Hockey Congress and shall serve a term for three (3) years and subsequently reelected every three (3) years.** An individual will not be eligible to serve as an Independent Director if, within the twenty-four months preceding election: (i) such individual or an immediate family member of such individual is/was employed by or held any governance position (whether a paid or volunteer position) with USA Hockey, any District or Affiliate of USA Hockey or the IIHF; (ii) such individual is/was affiliated with or employed by USA Hockey's outside auditor or outside counsel, or an immediate family member of such individual is/was affiliated with or employed by USA Hockey's outside auditor or outside counsel as a partner, principal, or manager; (iii) such individual is/was a member of USA Hockey's Athletes Advisory Committee; (iv) such individual is/was a member of any constituent group with representation on the USA Hockey Board of Directors; (v) such individual receives or received any compensation from USA Hockey, directly or indirectly, or its Districts, Affiliates (other than reimbursement for approved expenses reasonably incurred as part of their Board duties); (vi) the individual is/was an executive officer, controlling shareholder, or partner of a corporation or partnership or other business entity that does business with USA Hockey; (vii) the individual is/was the parent or close family member or coach of an athlete that has competed in a Protected Competition; or (viii) the individual is/was a member of USA Hockey in a membership category that participates in Protected Competitions. The Independent Director must maintain an independent perspective by maintaining the requirements above for their

entire term and any successive term, with exceptions related to their service on the Board. The Nominating Committee shall solicit individuals for the Independent Director fulfilling these criteria and submit such nominations to the Board of Directors **for recommendation to Congress** no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. A person may not serve as an Independent Director for longer than three consecutive terms, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an unexpired term as an Independent Director shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To change so that the Independent Representative is elected by the Congress and related clarifications.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett

**AFFILIATION:** Governance subcommittee\_

**EMAIL:** usahlegalvp@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Legal #1

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Bylaw 10

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): Bylaw 10.B

Section: B.(1)

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): Page 116-117

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

*See current Bylaw 10.B in Annual Guide*

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

“Disciplinary Authority” shall mean USA Hockey, including each operating council of USA Hockey (Youth, Girls, Junior, Adult and International), **any other USA Hockey committee authorized to issue Discipline under USA Hockey Policies or Rules & Regulations**, any certified Junior league, any Affiliate Association, or a local league, association or program having jurisdiction to issue Discipline to any Party within the jurisdiction of USA Hockey.

*Insert new definition for "Record":*

**“Record” shall mean any evidentiary submission, including, but not limited to, documentation, written statements, audio and/or video recordings, game scoresheets, referee reports, and testimony, submitted by a Party at a hearing as described in Bylaw 10.C.(4)(E), together with the Parties’ pre-hearing written submissions, if any, to the hearing panel (as defined in Bylaw 10.C.(4)(a)), and a stenographic or other record of the hearing held in accordance with Bylaw 10.C.(4)(E).**

*Change defined term for U.S. Center for SafeSport Code:*

“USCSS **SafeSport** Code” shall mean and refer to the policies and procedures adopted by the USCSS for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement’s sport National Governing Bodies, which may be found at [www.uscenterforsafesport.org](http://www.uscenterforsafesport.org).

*Make corresponding changes where this definition is used throughout Bylaw 10.*

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:

Adds a definition of “Record” in order to clarify future uses of the term throughout Bylaw 10; amends “USCSS Code” to proper title.

**Submitter:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board of Directors			
National Appeal Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**    **NO**    (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** cjorgensen@usahockey.org\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Legal #2

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Bylaw 10

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): Bylaw 10.C

Section: (4)(a), (4)(c), (4)(e) – (4)(h)

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): pgs 119-122

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

See current Bylaw 10.C in Annual Guide

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*C. Unified Procedure*

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**(4) Hearing Procedure**  
**(a) Hearing Panel**

**(i)** The Disciplinary Authority considering issuing any Discipline, or upon written demand by a Party contesting a suspension or other disciplinary action where no hearing was held, or **(ii) the issuer of an Administrative Action**, upon written demand by a Party that desires to contest an **the Administrative Action**, shall appoint a hearing panel of a minimum of three reasonably disinterested and impartial persons to conduct the hearing. ~~In cases involving coaches and referees, the District or Affiliate Association Referee in Chief or Coach in Chief, as appropriate, or his/her designee, shall serve on the hearing committee.~~ For any dispute where USA Hockey appoints a hearing panel to address a grievance or impose discipline at the national level, at least 33.3% of the members of the hearing panel shall be Eligible Athletes.

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**(c) Hearing Notice**

~~Not later than~~ **At least** seven (7) days before the hearing date, the hearing panel shall provide written notice to all interested Parties of the time and place of the hearing, the manner in which the hearing will be conducted, the grounds for any proposed suspension, discipline or Administrative Action, the possible consequences of an adverse finding, ~~and~~ the issues to be resolved by the panel, **and the Parties' right to create a stenographic or other record of the proceedings.** Notwithstanding that a hearing panel must ordinarily provide at least seven (7) days notice before a hearing date, a Party that has been issued a Summary Suspension or that may be

suspended pursuant to an issued hearing notice may waive such seven (7) day notice period in order to have a hearing on less notice.

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**(e) Conduct of Hearing**

The hearing panel may in its discretion hold a formal or informal hearing, hear any evidence it believes is relevant to the issue(s) before it, place limits on time, evidence and documentation, have witnesses or written statements and establish other hearing rules so long as the Parties are informed of the established procedures, each Party has a reasonable opportunity to present its case and argument in accordance with the hearing panel's rules, and each Party is treated in a substantially equal manner. Any Party that may be subject to Discipline shall be permitted to submit a written response/answer to the allegations set forth in the hearing notice prior to the commencement of the hearing. All documents or other evidence ~~that have been submitted to and will~~ be considered by the hearing panel shall be provided to all Parties to the hearing reasonably in advance of the hearing except with proper cause, provided that appropriate redaction of names or other identifying information may be made if approved by the hearing panel. The Rules of Evidence in judicial proceedings shall not apply in the hearing, **however, all exculpatory evidence shall be provided to the Parties in advance of the hearing.** The Parties may be represented by counsel of their choosing at their own expense, provided that the hearing panel may set rules for the involvement of counsel in the hearing. If the hearing panel has not made arrangements for a record of the proceedings, a Party may at its own expense create a stenographic or other record of the proceedings and must inform the hearing panel prior to the hearing of any arrangements so made. A copy of any such record created by or for a Party shall be provided at such Party's cost to the hearing panel. Other Parties will be permitted to secure a copy of the record in the normal course at their own expense.

**(f) Burden of Proof**

In order to impose a ~~suspension or d~~Discipline, the hearing panel must make a finding supported by a preponderance of the evidence (i.e., more likely true than not true) that the Party violated an Applicable Rule. The Disciplinary Authority proposing the Discipline shall have the burden of proof and shall present evidence to support the suspension or discipline by a preponderance of the evidence. In the case of an Administrative Action, the burden of proof shall be on the Party challenging the Administrative Action to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Administrative Action **was not supported by the facts or** was made in an arbitrary or capricious manner ~~or was not supported by the facts. In a contest of an Administrative Action, only the evidence presented to or considered by the Party taking the Administrative Action shall be presented and considered by the hearing panel.~~

**(g) Decision**

The hearing panel shall use reasonable efforts to (i) render its decision within five (5) business days of the completion of the hearing or the closing of the record whichever is later, and (ii) prepare and deliver a written decision to the Parties **(including the Party subject to the alleged misconduct)** within fifteen (15) business days of the completion of the hearing or the close of the record whichever is later. The written decision shall contain findings of material facts, conclusions, the order of the hearing panel and a statement of any right of appeal a Party may have as a result of the decision. Delivery of the decision to the Parties may be made by first class mail or other delivery service or electronic mail in the discretion of the hearing panel.

**(h) Scope of Hearing Panel Decision**

Unless explicitly excepted by another provision of these Bylaws, the decision of the hearing panel shall be (i) in effect only for the program governed by the Disciplinary Authority and (ii) subject to appeal as set out in Bylaw 10.E. and any further review provided for in the governing documents of USA Hockey or the appropriate Affiliate Association. If the Disciplinary Authority wishes to extend any suspension or discipline it ordered beyond its program, it must **submit written notification to, notify as applicable, the state or Affiliate Association, and the Party against whom the Discipline is imposed, within ten (10) business days from the date on which the hearing panel issues its written decision.** If the suspension or discipline is imposed by an ~~state or~~ Affiliate Association, or if a local Disciplinary Authority's decision is affirmed by an ~~state or~~ Affiliate Association, and the state or Affiliate Association wishes to extend the scope of the hearing panel's decision beyond the ~~state's or~~ Affiliate's jurisdictional geographic area, it may only do so by submitting a written request, **within ten (10) days from the date on which the hearing panel issues its written decision, or the date on which the hearing panel's decision is affirmed by an Affiliate Association, together with ~~to do so~~ and a copy of the written hearing panel's Disciplinary Authority's and/or Appeal Authority's decision to the Executive Director of USA Hockey and the Party against whom the suspension or discipline is imposed., who** **Upon receipt of such notification, the Executive Director if USA Hockey** shall advise all other Affiliate Associations and Junior Leagues of the suspension or Discipline and upon such notice the suspension or Discipline shall be in effect for all Affiliate Associations and all Junior Hockey. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, any suspension imposed by USA Hockey or a USA Hockey Affiliate (i) for a violation of the sexual misconduct policies of the USCSS or USA Hockey, or (ii) that is one year or more in length, shall automatically be considered a national suspension and shall be in effect across all USA Hockey sanctioned programs.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Primarily housekeeping but also adds some framework for requests to extend the scope of discipline beyond the Affiliate.

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Legal Council			
Board			
National Appeal Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council

**EMAIL:** [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcguire@usahockey.org">emily.mcguire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Legal #3

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Bylaw 10

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): Bylaw 10.D

Section: (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(c), (3)(d) and new Section (3)(j)

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): pgs 122- 127

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

See current Bylaw 10.D in Annual Guide

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*D. Exclusions from Unified Procedure*

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**(3) Exclusions**

**(a) Summary Suspensions**

A Summary Suspension may be imposed by any Disciplinary Authority only in those cases where **(i)(A)** a Party has been arrested for a crime alleged to have been committed, **(B)** a Party has assaulted another or violated the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policy, including such abuse between adults, or **(C) a Party is alleged to have committed** other violations of USA Hockey Policies set forth in the Annual Guide or comparable Policies of Affiliate Associations that are in writing and have been approved by USA Hockey, **and (ii) the suspended Party's continued participation presents a risk of harm to USA Hockey and/or other persons.**

Any such Summary Suspension must be in writing and given to the suspended Party and the writing shall inform the Party of his or her right to request a hearing. The suspended Party must submit a request for a hearing of a Summary Suspension within seven (7) days of the Party being notified of the suspension. Any hearing following a Summary Suspension shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Unified Procedure.

**(b) Playing Rules Suspensions**

Any Playing Rules Suspension does not require a hearing except that, in the event of the imposition of a match penalty as defined in the Playing Rules, a hearing must be offered to be held as set forth in the Playing Rules, and the terms and length of the

Party's suspension shall be as set forth in the Playing Rules unless modified or revoked by the hearing panel. Any hearing for a match penalty shall be conducted according to the Unified Procedure; provided that, in the case of a match penalty being imposed in a district or national championship tournament, the hearing will be conducted immediately after the game in question by the on-site USA Hockey personnel. All applicable game scoresheets and referee reports must be presented to the hearing panel and made available to the Party subject to suspension. Any Playing Rule Suspension shall remain in force and effect and be final unless modified or revoked at a hearing **or on appeal**, except that if the hearing is not held within 30 days of the incident together with a decision in accordance with the Unified Procedure, the suspended Party shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and thereafter imposing further disciplinary action.

### **(c) Officiating Suspensions**

The applicable ~~state-association~~ **Officials' Organization (defined below)** or league or local supervisor of officials shall have the authority to suspend a referee up to ten (10) days without a prior hearing. The ~~state-association~~ **Officials' Organization** or Affiliate Association shall have the authority to suspend a referee after a hearing (held in accordance with the Unified Procedure) or in accordance with the Summary Suspension procedures.

Any official(s) who boycotts any game(s) due to any disciplinary action taken or not taken by a Disciplinary Authority shall subject said official(s) to Discipline in accordance with the Unified Procedure conducted by the organization subjected to said boycott.

USA Hockey does not recognize ~~Officials' Organizations~~. However, if any registered USA Hockey official is restricted or denied assignment eligibility for any USA Hockey game by an officials' organization or group of officials ("Officials' Organization"), except for good cause shown in accordance with the Officials' Organization written rules and then only for a very limited duration without a hearing as provided herein, then said Officials' Organization shall be subject to suspension or expulsion in accordance with the rules and regulations herein and that restriction or denied assignment shall have no effect.

*[No Other Changes in this Subsection]*

### **(d) Assault on Game Official**

Assaults on Game Officials are violations of **the** USA Hockey Playing Rules and as such are subject to the provisions for Playing Rules Suspensions. In the event of a match penalty for assault on a game official under Playing Rule 601(e)(1), the offending Party shall be immediately suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity. For penalties assessed under 601(e)(1) that are affirmed after a hearing, the offending Party shall be suspended for not less than one calendar year with one year calendar year probation thereafter.

In the case of a match penalty for assault on a game official, the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate, its designated hearing body, or the Junior Council sanctioned league shall exercise original jurisdiction in such matter.

***NOTE:** The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only.*

Any game official assessing a penalty under Rule 601(e)(1) shall file with his/her USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief a written game report within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident. The District Referee-in-Chief shall immediately investigate ~~the~~ **any**

incident **alleging a Rule 601(e)(1) violation** and promptly submit a written opinion, together with the game sheets and reports to the applicable Disciplinary Authority, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule. A copy of the Referee-in-Chief's written report and opinion shall be sent by the Disciplinary Authority to the player, team official and game official involved.

Suspensions imposed under this bylaw subsection shall be immediately reported to USA Hockey national office, to the applicable Affiliate Association(s), and the appropriate registrar(s). The Registrar may accept a registration subject to the terms of this suspension.

*Insert new Subsection (j):*

**(j) Minor Infractions of Team Rules**

**Team or Member Program imposed suspensions for violations of Applicable Rules or that team's or Member Program's rules that do not exceed the lesser of one game or seventy-two (72) hours.**

*Renumber Subsections below.*

(j)

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Primarily housekeeping but also clarifies the intent behind Summary Suspensions as well as distinguish between discipline that requires a hearing and discipline for minor violations of team rules.

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board of Directors			
Legal Council			
National Appeal Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**    **NO**    (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council

**EMAIL:** [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org">emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Legal #4

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Bylaw 10

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): Bylaw 10.E

Section: (1), (2) and (3)

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): pgs 130-133

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

See current Bylaw 10.E in Annual Guide

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*E. Appeals*

**(1) Right to Appeal**

Any Party that is suspended, otherwise disciplined or subject to an Administrative Action may, after a hearing or failure to have a hearing in accordance with the Unified Procedure, appeal such action as follows (it is recognized that rules of an Affiliate Association may also allow appeals within the Affiliate by other Parties to the matter):

**(a) Suspensions**

Playing Rule Suspensions or suspensions for violations of bylaw and/or rules of local, league or District organizations, or by a committee of ~~a state association or~~ an Affiliate Association shall be appealable to the Board of Directors of the ~~state association or~~ where ~~no state organization exists to~~ the Affiliate Association's Board of Directors or the designated **appeal** committee of such Board of Directors (the "Appeal Authority"). Upon the written appeal of any Party whose suspension has been upheld by an ~~state or~~ Affiliate Association, **or where otherwise provided in the Applicable Rules**, the National Appeal Committee of USA Hockey shall allow an appeal of such suspension to be determined by it pursuant to Section E.(2) of this appeal procedure. The National Appeal Committee may delegate or assign the matter to an appeal panel of no less than three committee members. **If the appeal involves a suspension of an official, the National Referee-in-Chief shall be invited to consult with the National Appeal Committee.** The appeal panel from the National Appeal Committee shall decide any appeal within thirty (30) days of the parties' submissions and shall render its decision within a reasonable period thereafter.

**(b) Appeals Not Involving Suspensions**

Appeals of Administrative Actions or other disciplinary action which do not involve suspension shall be appealed to the Board of Directors of the state association or where no state organization exists to the Affiliate Association's Board of Directors or the designated **appeal** committee of such Board of Directors. Except for Administrative Actions by a USA Hockey Council, Committee or Section, which shall be appealable to the USA Hockey National Appeal Committee, there shall be no further appeals of Administrative Actions or other disciplinary actions not involving a suspension.

**(c) Officials**

~~Officials may appeal a suspension, other disciplinary action or an adverse Administrative Action if by an officials' association, USA Hockey District Referee in Chief or local supervisor of officials to the applicable Affiliate Association. If the official has been disciplined by the Affiliate Association or if the Affiliate Association has affirmed the discipline previously imposed, or if an official has been disciplined by the USA Hockey Officiating Development Program, the official may appeal the discipline to a committee consisting of the National Referee in Chief, a District Representative from the District to which the Affiliate belongs and a third impartial individual selected by those two. There shall be no further appeal of any decision by the said committee and the Discipline shall be final.~~

**(d) (c) District/National Championship Rules Appeals**

District or national championship rules or special jurisdictional hockey association rules shall be appealable to the USA Hockey council or its designee having jurisdiction over the program. There shall be no further appeal of any decision by the said council and the decision shall be final.

**(e) (d) Council Decisions**

Except as otherwise provided, any decision of a USA Hockey council shall be appealable to the USA Hockey National Appeal Committee whose decision shall be final.

**(f) (e) Junior Appeals**

Any Junior participant, ~~or team or league that is suspended, otherwise disciplined or subject to an Administrative Action after a hearing or a failure to have a hearing~~ **by their league**, may appeal the discipline to the ~~Junior Council~~ **National Appeal Committee. Any Junior participant or team that is subject to an Administrative Action, after a hearing or failure to have a hearing, may appeal that decision to the applicable Junior league.** In the case of appeals of Playing Rule Suspensions or other Discipline, and Player Eligibility issues, the decision of the Junior Council shall be final. In the case of any other appeals under this subsection (f), the decision of the Junior Council shall be subject to appeal to the USA Hockey National Appeal Committee.

**(f) Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee**

**Any Party subject to Discipline imposed by the Affiliate President's Review Subcommittee shall be subject to appeal to the National Appeal Committee whose decision shall be final.**

**(2) Appeal Procedure**

The appeal procedure for all appeals as described in Section E(1) above shall be as follows.

**(a) Statement of Appeal**

The appealing Party must submit a Statement of Appeal in writing to the appropriate Appeal Authority, with a copy to the Disciplinary Authority and the hearing panel, of the decision appealed from within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision

appealed or of the date of the failure to hold a hearing, whichever is applicable. The Statement of Appeal shall include a statement of why the Discipline should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the hearing panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Disciplinary Authority and any responding Party shall have fourteen (14) days from the receipt of the Statement of Appeal to file a reply and any reply must be served upon the Appeal Authority and the appealing Party. The Statement of Appeal and reply should be a complete and comprehensive document and include all materials **from the Record** the Party wishes **the Appeal Authority** to be considered. Letters and other documents not submitted by the Party him/herself as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. If a Statement of Appeal is not received by the appropriate Appeal Authority within the fourteen (14) day period, the discipline shall be final. The failure to respond by any Party will exclude that Party from further participation in the appeal proceedings. If included in its governing documents addressing appeals, an Affiliate may require the submission of a reasonable fee not to exceed \$250 as a condition of allowing an appeal to the Affiliate.

The Statement of Appeal and any reply shall be no longer than ten (10) typed double spaced pages with a font size no smaller than twelve (12) point. Exhibits **from the Record** to support the Statement of Appeal and/or reply may also be attached, **including together with** any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument. Exhibits shall not be included in the ten (10) page limitation.

For purposes of this rule and when there is a written decision in the matter being appealed, the Disciplinary Authority and any responding Party may affirm and adopt the earlier written decision as its reply without the need for an additional reply.

**(b) Conduct of Appeal Proceeding**

**The members of the Appeal Authority must include at least three persons, all of whom are reasonably disinterested and impartial.** The Appeal Authority shall review the decision of the Hearing Panel and the written submissions of the Parties and may in its sole discretion consider the appeal on the written submissions of the Parties, or may hold an appeal hearing on the issues being appealed, and establish other rules so long as each Party is treated substantially equal. **If an appeal hearing is held,** ~~notice of an appeal hearing, if any,~~ shall be given **provided** to all Parties, and any appeal hearing may, in the discretion of the Appeal Authority, be held in person, telephonically or by video conference. If a hearing is held, it shall be held within thirty (30) days of the Appeal Authority's receipt of submissions from all Parties, except as agreed by the Parties or in circumstances beyond the control of the Appeal Authority. Only the evidence and theories presented to the Hearing Panel shall be presented or considered on appeal.

**(c) Standard and Scope of Review**

The Appeal Authority shall not conduct a de novo hearing of the facts decided by the Hearing Panel but shall apply a deferential standard of review to the Hearing Panel decision. The Appeal Authority shall only reverse, vacate or modify the Hearing Panel decision if the Appealing Party demonstrates that the Hearing Panel:

1. acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner without reasonable grounds or adequate consideration of the circumstances; or
2. made a finding of material fact that is clearly erroneous, in other words, the Appeal Authority must have a definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been made; or
3. misinterpreted or misapplied any controlling bylaw, rule, procedure or policy that made a difference in its decision.

**(d) Appeal Decision**

The Appeal Authority shall make every reasonable effort to issue a written decision that shall include a statement of the facts ~~that were proven at the hearing~~ **supported by the Record** and the conclusions of the Appeal Authority within the later of (i) thirty (30) days of the receipt of a reply or expiration of the period for a reply, or (ii) fourteen (14) days of the Appeal Authority review. The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

**(e) Suspension or Discipline Remains in Effect**

Any suspension, discipline or Administrative Action appealed from shall remain in force and effect until it expires, is reversed or is modified by the Appeal Authority.

**(3) No Further Appeals**

There shall be no further appeal of any decision by the National Appeal Committee of USA Hockey in matters concerning Discipline and its decision shall be final as it is the final Appeal Authority in this appeal process.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Primarily housekeeping but also removes the separate process for appeals of discipline of officials and directs appeals of discipline of Junior participants or teams to the National Appeal Committee.

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			
National Appeal Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**    **NO**    (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council

**EMAIL:** [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Legal #5

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaw 10

**REGULATION (Heading):**  
**BY-LAW (Heading):** Bylaw 10.F  
**Section:** Bylaw 10.F(4)  
**Reference (sub-section):**  
**Paragraph / Page no(s):** pg 136

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**(4) Challenges to Affiliate Status**

Challenges to an Affiliate Association’s status with USA Hockey by a third party other than USA Hockey shall be referred to the Legal Council for investigation and recommendation to the Board of Directors for action at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Board of Directors shall allow the challenging party to submit to it such matters as it deems appropriate to decide the challenge and shall allow any challenged Affiliate Association to submit such material and evidence it deems appropriate to rebut any such challenge.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**(4) Challenges to Affiliate Status**

Challenges to an Affiliate Association’s status with USA Hockey by a third party other than USA Hockey shall be referred to the Legal Council for investigation and recommendation to the Board of Directors for action at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. ~~The Board of Directors~~ **Legal Council, or a subcommittee thereof**, shall allow the challenging party to submit to it such matters as it deems appropriate to decide the challenge and shall allow any challenged Affiliate Association to submit such material and evidence it deems appropriate to rebut any such challenge.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping.

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):* Legal Council

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			
National Appeal Committee			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**   **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Casey Jorgensen\_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** USA Hockey General Counsel

**EMAIL:** cjorgensen@usahockey.org\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):\_\_\_\_\_ Date

submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcguire@usahockey.org">emily.mcguire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Legal #6

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Bylaw 10  
REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): Bylaw 10.G

Section: (1) – (3), (5), (6), (10) – (12)

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): pages 137 - 141

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

See current Bylaw 10.G in Annual Guide

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*G. Arbitration*

**(1) Purpose**

It is the specific purpose of Bylaw 10.G to provide for a **full, final and** uniform method of resolving **final resolution of** all disputes which ~~utilizes~~ **utilizing** the specific skills, expertise and background of people experienced in hockey and sports administration matters **in lieu of and as a complete substitute for all court proceedings** ("Arbitration Procedure").

**(2) Scope**

**The Arbitration Procedure shall be available to appeal** ~~Any party against whom a final decision of an Administrative Action. has been rendered by a governing body as defined herein shall be entitled to demand that the dispute be subject to arbitration pursuant to the procedure set out in this Section 10.G.~~

This arbitration procedure may also be used to challenge the construction, interpretation and application of a governing body's bylaws, rules and regulations and the authority, relationship and arrangements by or among any governing body(ies) if a governing body has rendered a final decision relative to same.

**A Party bound by this Arbitration Procedure waives the right to a jury trial and to seek judicial relief, including, but not limited to, injunctive, declarative, or other court relief or determination, except where authorized by law.**

**(3) Definitions**

\*\*\*\*\*

~~"Record" shall mean the record developed and/or presented in connection with the deliberation and rendering of a final decision.~~

**(5) Commencement of Arbitration**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Petition shall be no longer than ~~ten (10)~~ **twenty (20)** typed double-spaced pages with a font size no smaller than twelve (12) point. Exhibits to support the Petition may be attached and shall include a copy of the decision appealed from and any relevant governing documents of the applicable state association or Affiliate Association applicable to the final decision.

The Petition shall be filed with the Chair and USA Hockey's business office in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and shall be served on all named parties, no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of the decision that is the subject of the Petition. Filing shall be deemed to have occurred upon receipt of the Petition by USA Hockey's business office in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Filing, and responses, may be accomplished by U.S. Postal Service, overnight courier, and/or email to the proper persons.

**(6) Response**

Any responding party to the Petition shall file its response in the same manner and which shall meet the same requirements set out in Bylaw 10.G.~~(4)~~ **(5)** above upon all other parties within fourteen (14) days of the responding party's receipt of the Petition. Any named party not responding within the time period above shall continue to be a party to the arbitration, but shall have no further right to assert any rights, defenses or claims in the arbitration.

\*\*\*\*\*

**(10) Hearing**

Once the panel has been formed the arbitrators should conference in a manner of their choosing and determine ~~how the panel will conduct the hearing on the arbitration. The panel will determine~~ whether it will proceed upon the submission of documents, ~~take testimony in person~~ **hear oral argument**, place limits on time for submission of evidence, the rules of evidence to be applied and establish a procedural order for the hearing to be completed. The panel shall not conduct a de novo investigation or hearing but shall be limited to the Record of the matter before it. ~~The panel shall not entertain any theories or evidence that have not been decided or submitted to the body that decided the issue being arbitrated.~~

The panel shall render a written decision within ~~twenty (20)~~ **thirty (30)** days from the **latter of the response received pursuant to Bylaw 10.G(6) or** the date of the ~~completion of the hearing~~ **oral argument** unless a majority of the panel determines this time frame should be extended. The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth findings of fact along with the reasoning and conclusion of the panel.

**(11) Burden of Proof**

The party that has filed the Petition for Arbitration shall have the burden of proof to ~~present sufficient evidence and to persuade the panel by clear and convincing evidence to uphold its appeal~~ **that the decision below should be reversed, vacated, overturned, modified or remanded.** The panel may make inferences and presumptions from the evidence presented to it or from the failure to produce available evidence, materials or witnesses.

**(12) Standard for Determination**

In making its determination and deciding the matter before it, the panel shall be limited to deciding whether in the decision being appealed that:

- (a) there was an abuse of discretion by the governing body; **or the governing body acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner;** and
- ~~(b) the governing body acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner; and~~

(e) **(b)** but for such actions, a different result would have resulted.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping and to clarify that arbitration pursuant to Bylaw 10.G. is a complete substitute for court proceedings.

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			
National Appeal Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council

**EMAIL:** cjorgensen@usahockey.org\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Legal #7

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaw 10  
**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** Bylaw 10.I

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** pg 144

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

***I. Exception to Internal Arbitration – AAA Arbitration – United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Protected Competition***

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Bylaw 10.I or in USA Hockey’s Rules and Regulations:

- (1) As provided by Bylaw 10.B.(1), USA Hockey agrees to submit to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association, any controversy involving its recognition as a national governing body, or involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in amateur athletic competition, as provided in the USOPC Constitution and the USOPC’s Bylaws, and
- (2) No action on behalf of USA Hockey shall be made, or shall be deemed to have been made, which denies or threatens to deny, in violation of approved selection criteria, any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in Protected Competition.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

***I. Exception to Internal Arbitration – ~~AAA Arbitration~~ Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act – United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Protected Competition***

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Bylaw 10.I or in USA Hockey’s Rules and Regulations:

- (1) As provided by Bylaw 10.B.(1), USA Hockey agrees to submit to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the ~~American Arbitration Association~~ **arbitral organization designated by the USOPC**, any controversy involving its recognition as a national governing body, or involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in amateur athletic competition, as provided in the USOPC Constitution and the USOPC’s Bylaws, and
- (2) No action on behalf of USA Hockey shall be made, or shall be deemed to have been made, which denies or threatens to deny, in violation of approved selection criteria, any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in Protected Competition.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping.

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
 submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Legal #8

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** Rules and Regulations III.B

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** Rules and Regulations III.B.(1)(a)(3)d., II.B(1)(e)2 and II.B(1)(e)4

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 167 and 170

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**III.B.(1)(a)(3)d.:**

- d. the Player Agreement would not restrict a player from playing with another team, including a Tier I team, if the player files a grievance with any applicable Affiliate (the Signing Team’s Affiliate and, if different, the Affiliate where the player would like to sign) and a hearing is held or overseen by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee (and not the Signing Team or Local Program) where it is determined that the Signing Team, its coach(es) or other participants have violated USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies or other USA Hockey, Affiliate or Signing Team policies and which violation(s) justify the player’s release from the Player Agreement and eligibility to sign with another Tier I team (but still subject to any other rostering rules and timelines). The Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall endeavor to hold hearings on such grievances on an expedited basis when appropriate. The Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee’s determination shall be final and is not subject to appeal, except that any suspension imposed by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall be appealable to the National Appeal Committee.

**III.B(1)(e)2:**

2. **Enforcement against Coaches.** Incidents in which coaches or others involved in a program are alleged to have tampered with players who have signed a Player Agreement in violation of Tampering as defined above, will be referred to the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee for investigation and disciplinary action. Any coach determined by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee or USA Hockey to have tampered with another player will face a minimum suspension of one year and minimum probationary period of two years for the first offense.

**III.B(1)(e)4:**

4. **Appeals of Suspensions.** Any suspension imposed by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall be appealable to the National Appeals Committee.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**III.B.(1)(a)(3)d.:**

- d. the Player Agreement would not restrict a player from playing with another team, including a Tier I team, if the player files a grievance with any applicable Affiliate (the Signing Team's Affiliate and, if different, the Affiliate where the player would like to sign) and a hearing is held or overseen by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee (and not the Signing Team or Local Program) where it is determined that the Signing Team, its coach(es) or other participants have violated USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies or other USA Hockey, Affiliate or Signing Team policies and which violation(s) justify the player's release from the Player Agreement and eligibility to sign with another Tier I team (but still subject to any other rostering rules and timelines). The Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall endeavor to hold hearings on such grievances on an expedited basis when appropriate. The Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee's determination shall be final and is not subject to appeal, except that any **Discipline** ~~suspension~~ imposed by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall be appealable to the National Appeal Committee.

**III.B(1)(e)2:**

2. **Enforcement against Coaches.** Incidents in which coaches or others involved in a program are alleged to have tampered with players who have signed a Player Agreement **with another Tier I team**, in violation of Tampering as defined above, will be referred to the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee for investigation and disciplinary action. Any coach determined by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee or USA Hockey to have tampered with another player will face a minimum suspension of one year and minimum probationary period of two years for the first offense.

**III.B(1)(e)4:**

4. **Appeals of ~~Suspensions-Discipline~~.** Any ~~suspension~~-**Discipline** imposed by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall be appealable to the National Appeals Committee

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Bring the language of subsection 2 (Enforcement against Coaches) consistent with both subsection 1 (Enforcement against Players) and Subsection 3 (Enforcement against Programs).

Submitter: Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell, Legal Council  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Legal Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			
National Appeal Committee			
Youth Council			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES    **NO**    (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** Legal Council \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** cjorgensen@usahockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Youth # 1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** III Team Membership and Registration

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** B. Tryouts/Player Selection

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** Page168

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

4. Prior to offering a Player Agreement to a player, or signing the Player Agreement, an authorized program or team representative from the Signing Team must present and review a Team Fact Sheet with the player and their parent, which must include all the information, provisions and requirements the player and family will be committing to by signing the Player Agreement and becoming a member of the Signing Team. The Team Fact Sheet must be referenced in the signed Player Agreement, must be signed by the team and parents, and must be provided to the player's parents. The required elements of the Team Fact Sheet must include at least the following information:
- a. The specific team upon which player will be rostered;
  - b. The Signing Team's anticipated budget and fees for the season, which includes team fees to participate on the Signing Team for the season, uniform or equipment fees, and anticipated travel fees (to the extent known or planned) for the player and any required travel for parents, and any other anticipated fees that are required to be paid as a condition of participation on the team;

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

4. Prior to offering a Player Agreement to a player, or signing the Player Agreement, an authorized program or team representative from the Signing Team must present and review a Team Fact Sheet with the player and their parent, which must include all the information, provisions and requirements the player and family will be committing to by signing the Player Agreement and becoming a member of the Signing Team. The Team Fact Sheet must be referenced in the signed Player Agreement, must be signed by the team and parents, and must be provided to the player's parents. The required elements of the Team Fact Sheet must include at least the following information:
- a. The specific team upon which player will be rostered;
  - b. The Signing Team's anticipated ~~budget and~~ fees for the season, which includes team fees to participate on the Signing Team for the season, uniform or equipment fees, and anticipated travel fees (to the extent known or planned) for the player and any required travel for parents, and any other anticipated fees that are required to be paid as a condition of participation on the team;

*[No other changes after this subsection]*

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To remove the term “budget” from the information that must be included in a Player Agreement.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section): Ethics Council*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Board of Directors			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Keith Barrett

**AFFILIATION:** Youth Council

**EMAIL:** kbarrett@pcconstruction.com

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – SPEC 1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USAH Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** VIII. Games, Exhibition Games, Invitational Tournaments, Sanctioned Leagues and Sanctioned Events

**Reference (sub-section):** E. The conditions for sanction of an ice hockey tournament are as follows:

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 185

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

Add

**9. The sanctioned tournament operator is required to arrange for medical personnel to be in attendance for all tournament games. At a minimum, there shall be one (1) medical personnel on-site at every venue (regardless of number of ice sheets or games played) used for tournament play. Medical personnel shall be defined as: a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC), EMT, Paramedic, or Physician.**

**\*NOTE: This is for sanctioned tournaments only.\***

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To ensure appropriate on-ice player safety by having qualified medical personnel on-site at USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments to treat/manage any injuries or emergency medical needs.

Submitter: Safety and Protective Equipment Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
HS Section			
Legal Council			
Risk Management			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Michael J. Stuart**\_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION: Chair; Safety and Protective Equipment Committee**

**USA Hockey Chief Medical and Safety Officer**\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:stupops@live.com**\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Please type or print all information. *(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)*
- When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.
- Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be **on or before April 1, 2025.**
- E-mail to: [emily.mcquire@usahockey.org](mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org) and [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)
- Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.
- Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.
- You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – SPEC 2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USAH Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Policies

**REGULATION (Heading):** D. Alcohol, Tobacco, Smoking Products and Drug Abuse

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 39

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**D. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, SMOKING PRODUCTS AND DRUG ABUSE**

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey that consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey. Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, USA Hockey prohibits use by any participant of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs, as these terms are defined below, during participation in its programs as follows:

1. Zero tolerance for possession or use of drugs by any participant unless participant is currently under a doctor's care and the medication is required for treatment of an illness or injury;
2. Zero tolerance for providing or condoning the use of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs to or by a minor athlete by a coach, assistant coach, manager, official or any other person who is in a position of authority over that athlete;
3. Zero tolerance for being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs while supervising minor athletes or while participating in a USA Hockey practice, game or event; and
4. Abuse of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs by a participant while participating at a USA Hockey event other than that prohibited by #3 above.

Violation of this policy shall subject the participant to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or disqualification from membership. Further, USA Hockey hereby recommends that each and all of its teams, associations, programs and affiliates develop and enforce alcohol, tobacco, smoking products and drug abuse policies and practices that are consistent with this policy.

For purposes of this policy, the word "alcohol" shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages.

For purposes of this policy, the words "drug" shall include the following:

1. Any controlled substances.
2. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
3. Any mood altering or psychoactive substance that produces a state of intoxication in the participant.

For purposes of this policy, the words "tobacco and smoking products" shall include the following:

1. Electronic Smoking Devices are devices that heat a chemical solution into a vapor that is inhaled into the lungs (e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens or other similar devices).
2. Smokeless Tobacco are tobacco products chewed or snuffed rather than smoked by the user, including dipping tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus or similar tobacco products not used for smoking.
3. Tobacco smoking is the use of regular tobacco in cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookahs, water pipes or other similar tobacco smoking products.

Further, the word "participant" shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice hockey contest.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

#### **D. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, SMOKING PRODUCTS AND DRUG ABUSE**

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey that consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey. Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, USA Hockey prohibits use by any participant of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs, as these terms are defined below, during participation in its programs as follows:

1. Zero tolerance for possession or use of drugs by any participant unless participant is currently under a doctor's care and the medication is required for treatment of an illness or injury;
2. Zero tolerance for providing or condoning the use of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs to or by a minor athlete by a coach, assistant coach, manager, official or any other person who is in a position of authority over that athlete;
3. Zero tolerance for being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs while supervising minor athletes or while participating in a USA Hockey practice, game or event; and
4. Abuse of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs by a participant while participating at a USA Hockey event other than that prohibited by #3 above.

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1. Intoxicating beverages.

For purposes of this policy, the words "drug" shall include the following:

1. Any controlled substances.

2. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
3. Any mood altering or psychoactive substance that produces a state of intoxication in the participant.
- 4. Ammonia inhalants, also known as smelling salts, should never be used by a participant under the age of 18 years old.**
- 5. Over-the Counter medications should not be provided to any participant, under the age of 18, without the written consent of their parent or legal guardian.**

For purposes of this policy, the words "tobacco and smoking products" shall include the following:

1. Electronic Smoking Devices are devices that heat a chemical solution into a vapor that is inhaled into the lungs (e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens or other similar devices).
2. Smokeless Tobacco are tobacco products chewed or snuffed rather than smoked by the user, including dipping tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus or similar tobacco products not used for smoking.
3. Tobacco smoking is the use of regular tobacco in cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookahs, water pipes or other similar tobacco smoking products.

Further, the word "participant" shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice hockey contest.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Ammonia inhalants are not advised for youth athletes and may have harmful effect. Minors should not receive over-the-counter medications without parental consent.

Submitter: Safety and Protective Equipment Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Board			
Legal Council			
SPEC			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

**YES**   **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Michael J. Stuart, USA Hockey Chief Medical and Safety Officer \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** Chair; Safety and Protective Equipment Committee

**EMAIL:** stupops@live.com \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – NDL Working Group #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA HOCKEY ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** PROGRAMS & PHILOSOPHIES

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):** D. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 29-30

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**D. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

The objective of USA Hockey's Player Development Program is to select and train the most competitive men's and women's ice hockey and sled hockey teams to represent the United States at the Olympic, Paralympic, National, and Select levels of international competition.

The attainment of that goal begins each summer as USA Hockey hosts a series of national and/or regional Player Development Camps for able-bodied boys and girls ages 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as a camp for sled hockey players. Nearly 1,300 athletes representing each of USA Hockey's 12 districts participate in the week-long events, which attract scouts and evaluators from every level of hockey. Participants receive on- and off-ice training under the direction of leading USA Hockey coaches, along with current and former National Hockey League, Women's National Team and National Sled Team players. Participants are chosen through an evaluation process conducted at the local and district levels.

USA Hockey's National Team Development Program is an important part of player development efforts for select 16 and 17-year-old boys. The full-time residency program was formed to help influence increased success at all levels of international competition and also prepare players for professional hockey. In addition, USA Hockey's junior leagues, including the Tier I United States Hockey League and Tier II North American Hockey League, also play a significant role in USA Hockey's player development strategy.

.....

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**D. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

The objective of USA Hockey's Player Development Program is to select and train the most competitive men's and women's ice hockey and sled hockey teams to represent the United States at the Olympic, Paralympic, National, and Select levels of international competition.

The attainment of that goal begins each summer as USA Hockey hosts a series of national and/or

regional Player Development Camps for able-bodied boys and girls ages 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as a camp for sled hockey players. Nearly 1,300 athletes representing each of USA Hockey’s 12 districts participate in the week-long events, which attract scouts and evaluators from every level of hockey. Participants receive on- and off-ice training under the direction of leading USA hockey coaches, along with current and former National Hockey League, Women’s National Team and National Sled Team players. Participants are chosen through an evaluation process conducted at the local and district levels.

**Starting with the 2026/27 Season, USA Hockey will initiate play within the National Development League (NDL). The NDL will focus on 15U (14 & 15) and 17U (16 & 17) age groups in order to provide a more focused plan for high performance player development. The NDL is being established under USA Hockey’s authority as a National Governing Body as part of a high-performance national player development program to train and develop American players from across the country to advance to high level Junior programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in international competition.**

USA Hockey’s National Team Development Program is an important part of player development efforts for select 16 and 17-year-old boys. The full-time residency program was formed to help influence increased success at all levels of international competition and also prepare players for professional hockey. In addition, USA Hockey’s junior leagues, including the Tier I United States Hockey League and Tier II North American Hockey League, also play a significant role in USA Hockey’s player development strategy.

(No further changes)

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey National Development League. This specific proposal identifies the National Development League as a part of the USA Hockey Player Development Program under USA Hockey’s authority as an NGB.

Submitter: National Development League Working Group

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Legal Council			
Affiliate President’s Committee			
Athlete Advisory Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

No specific budget impact anticipated. An NDL Budget impact statement will be submitted.

**AUTHOR: Kris Knauss & John Coleman**

**AFFILIATION: National Development League Working Group**

**EMAIL: [knauss@confluence-strategies.com](mailto:knauss@confluence-strategies.com), [jkcole214@aol.com](mailto:jkcole214@aol.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 4/1/25

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Please type or print all information. *(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)*
- When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.
- Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be **on or before April 1, 2025**.
- E-mail to: [emily.mcquire@usahockey.org](mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org) and [cjorgensen@usahockey.org](mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org)
- Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.
- Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.
- You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – NDL Working Group #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA HOCKEY ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** BYLAWS

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):** 1. MEMBERSHIP IN USA HOCKEY

**Section:** 1

**Reference (sub-section):** D. Registration Fees

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 65

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

1. MEMBERSHIP IN USA HOCKEY

\*\*\*\*\*

***D. Registration Fees***

An annual registration fee for Registered Participant Membership and/or Allied Membership shall be approved by the Board of Directors, following a recommendation by the USA Hockey Congress, at the Winter Meeting of USA Hockey, to take effect for the following membership season; provided, however, if the annual registration fee approved by the Board of Directors was not recommended by the USA Hockey Congress, then any increase in the registration fee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The amount of the fee shall be paid or forwarded by the applicant through USA Hockey's online registration system along with the annual membership application.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

1. MEMBERSHIP IN USA HOCKEY

\*\*\*\*\*

***D. Registration Fees***

An annual registration fee for Registered Participant Membership and/or Allied Membership shall be approved by the Board of Directors, following a recommendation by the USA Hockey Congress, at the Winter Meeting of USA Hockey, to take effect for the following membership season; provided, however, if the annual registration fee approved by the Board of Directors was not recommended by the USA Hockey Congress, then any increase in the registration fee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The amount of the fee shall be paid or forwarded by the applicant through USA Hockey's online registration system along with the annual membership application.

**National Development League teams shall pay an annual team assessment as determined each season by the voting members of the Player Development Committee. National Development League annual team assessment shall be set forth each season in the National Development League Guidebook.**

(No further changes)

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey National Development League. This specific proposal would establish a team membership assessment to cover possible costs to USA Hockey in connection with the National Development League.

Submitter: National Development League Working Group

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Legal Council			
Affiliate Presidents Committee			
Athlete Advisory Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation cost, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

No specific budget impact anticipated. An NDLE Budget impact statement will be submitted.

**AUTHOR: Kris Knauss & John Coleman**

**AFFILIATION: Members National Development League Working Group**

EMAIL: [knauss@confluence-strategies.com](mailto:knauss@confluence-strategies.com) , [jkscole214@aol.com](mailto:jkscole214@aol.com)

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – NDL Working Group #3

NAME OF PUBLICATION: USA Hockey Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING:

REGULATION (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading): 6. COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND SECTIONS

Section: 6. B. (10) (b)

Reference (sub-section): 10 (b) Duties and Responsibilities

Paragraph / Page no(s): 100-101

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**(10) Player Development Committee**

\*\*\*\*\*

**(b) Duties and Responsibilities**

The Player Development Committee will oversee the coordination of USA Hockey Player Development initiatives and programs. This will include, but is not limited to, District and National Player Selection Camps, District and National Player Development Camps and American Development Model initiatives. In this regard the Player Development Committee will review the direction of all related Player Development Programming.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

**(10) Player Development Committee**

\*\*\*\*\*

**(b) Duties and Responsibilities**

The Player Development Committee will oversee the coordination of USA Hockey Player Development initiatives and programs. This will include, but is not limited to, District and National Player Selection Camps, District and National Player Development Camps, **the National Development League** and American Development Model initiatives. In this regard the Player Development Committee will review the direction of all related Player Development Programming.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey National Development League. This specific proposal would establish that the USA Hockey Player Development Committee has the responsibility to oversee the National Development League.

Submitter: National Development League Working Group

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Legal Council			
Affiliate President's Committee			
Athlete Advisory Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

No specific budget impact anticipated. An NDL Budget impact statement will be submitted.

**AUTHOR: Kris Knauss & John Coleman**

**AFFILIATION: National Development League Working Group**

**EMAIL: [knauss@confluence-strategies.com](mailto:knauss@confluence-strategies.com), [jkcole214@aol.com](mailto:jkcole214@aol.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 4/1/25

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – NDL Working Group #4

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA HOCKEY ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:**

**REGULATION (Heading): RULES & REGULATIONS II CLASSIFICATIONS**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section: II. B. Youth**

**Reference (sub-section): Youth, Girls, High School**

**Paragraph / Page no(s): 159-163**

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**II. CLASSIFICATIONS**

The following are the official ice hockey player and team classifications of USA Hockey. The classifications of a player shall be determined by his/her age at midnight on December 31 prior to or during the current playing season.

Player and team classifications for Junior hockey are as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

\*\*\*\*\*

***B. Youth, Girls, High School***

**(1) Age/Team Classifications**

**YOUTH**

Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18) (18U)

Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16) (16U)

Fifteen (15) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) (15O)

Thirteen (13) and Fourteen (14) (14U)

Thirteen (13) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) (13O)

Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) (12U)

Nine (9) and Ten (10) (10U)

Seven (7) & Eight (8) (8U)

Six (6) & Under (6U)

\*\*\*\*\*

**(2) Citizenship Eligibility**

(a) Only U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in the National Player Development Program.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

## II. CLASSIFICATIONS

The following are the official ice hockey player and team classifications of USA Hockey. The classifications of a player shall be determined by his/her age at midnight on December 31 prior to or during the current playing season.

Player and team classifications for Junior hockey are as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

\*\*\*\*\*

### *B. Youth, Girls, High School*

#### **(1) Age/Team Classifications**

##### **YOUTH**

Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18) (18U)

**Sixteen (16) and Seventeen (17) (17U) National Development League teams only**

Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16) (16U)

Fifteen (15) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) (15O)

**Fourteen (14) and Fifteen (15) (15U) National Development League teams only**

Thirteen (13) and Fourteen (14) (14U)

Thirteen (13) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) (13O)

Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) (12U)

Nine (9) and Ten (10) (10U)

Seven (7) & Eight (8) (8U)

Six (6) & Under (6U)

**Classifications for players and teams participating in the National Development League (NDL) shall be as provided in RULES & REGULATIONS Section III. I.**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **(2) Citizenship Eligibility**

(a) Only U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in the National Player Development Program **or play on teams participating in the National Development League.**

(No further changes)

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey National Development League. This specific proposal sets out the age classifications for the National Development League and provides that only U.S. Citizens may participate as players on National Development League teams. The NDL is being established as part of USA Hockey's high-performance National Player Development Program. The NDL will become part of the development pathway for American players and as part of the USA Hockey National Development Program only U.S. Citizens would be eligible to participate.

Submitter: National Development League Working Group

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Legal Council			
Affiliate President's Committee			
Athlete Advisory Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

No specific budget impact anticipated. An NDLC Budget impact statement will be submitted.

**AUTHOR: Kris Knauss & John Coleman**

**AFFILIATION: National Development League Working Group**

**EMAIL: [knauss@confluence-strategies.com](mailto:knauss@confluence-strategies.com) , [jckole214@aol.com](mailto:jckole214@aol.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 4/1/25

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – NDL Working Group #5

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA HOCKEY ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** RULES & REGULATIONS SECTION III

**REGULATION (Heading):** TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** A. Membership

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 164-165

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

***A. Membership***

Except for Juniors, all teams of USA Hockey member programs must register with USA Hockey in a manner prescribed by the appropriate district registrar. All youth, girls, high school and disabled teams shall be required to use the official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T). Affiliates and leagues may also require the USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) for other specified teams. All applicants for team membership must be members in good standing of an Affiliate.

Junior registration for players, coaches, teams, leagues and referees shall be as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

All players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season, and that play on a team in a classification that allows minor age players, shall be required to complete U.S. Center for SafeSport online training before being added to such team and prior to participation (on-ice or off-ice). This requirement shall apply to all teams in the Youth, Girls, High School, Junior Hockey, Flex Hockey and Disabled Hockey program classifications that allow both minor age and adult age players. Players required to complete the training shall complete the Core Center for SafeSport Training prior to being added to a team and shall complete the Refresher Course on an annual basis in accordance with SafeSport Program Policies in each subsequent season in which they are on a team in the above classifications.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

### III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

#### A. Membership

Except for Juniors, **and teams participating in the National Development League (NDL)**, all teams of USA Hockey member programs must register with USA Hockey in a manner prescribed by the appropriate district registrar. All youth, girls, high school, **National Development League**, and disabled teams shall be required to use the official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T). Affiliates and leagues may also require the USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) for other specified teams. All applicants for team membership must be members in good standing of an Affiliate.

Junior registration for players, coaches, teams, leagues and referees shall be as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

#### **Registration of players, teams and programs participating in the National Development League (NDL) shall be as provided for in RULES & REGULATIONS Section III. I.**

All players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season, and that play on a team in a classification that allows minor age players, shall be required to complete U.S. Center for SafeSport online training before being added to such team and prior to participation (on-ice or off-ice). This requirement shall apply to all teams in the Youth, Girls, High School, Junior Hockey, Flex Hockey and Disabled Hockey program classifications that allow both minor age and adult age players. Players required to complete the training shall complete the Core Center for SafeSport Training prior to being added to a team and shall complete the Refresher Course on an annual basis in accordance with SafeSport Program Policies in each subsequent season in which they are on a team in the above classifications.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey National Development League. This specific proposal provides that registration of players, teams and programs participating in the NDL would be governed by new Rules and Regulations section III. I.

Submitter: National Development League Working Group  
*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Legal Council			
Affiliate President's Committee			
Athlete Advisory Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

No specific budget impact anticipated. An NDL Budget impact statement will be submitted.

**AUTHOR: Kris Knauss & John Coleman**

**AFFILIATION: National Development League Working Group**

**EMAIL: [knauss@confluence-strategies.com](mailto:knauss@confluence-strategies.com) , [jkcoble214@aol.com](mailto:jkcoble214@aol.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 4/1/25

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcguire@usahockey.org">emily.mcguire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – NDL Working Group #6

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA HOCKEY ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** RULES & REGULATIONS SECTION III

**REGULATION (Heading):** NEW Section III. I. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** I – new section

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** insert on page 178 after Section H

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

New section. No current language.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**SECTION III TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

**I. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (NDL)**

**Starting with the 2026/27 Season, USA Hockey will initiate play within the National Development League (NDL). The NDL is being established under USA Hockey’s authority as a National Governing Body (NGB) as part of a high-performance national player development program to train and develop American players from across the country to advance to high level Junior Hockey programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in International competition.**

**The voting members of the USA Hockey Player Development Committee shall approve a National Development League Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before January 1 prior to the start of NDL team formation for the following year. Except as set forth and contrary to any information contained in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the National Development League Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the selection and application process for participation of teams and programs within the NDL, the recruitment, tryout, selection and player agreement of any player participating in the NDL, operating requirements for teams participating in the NDL, game requirements and any end of season league playoffs.**

**1. Player, Coach and Team Registration**

- a) All participants (players and coaches) must complete the USA Hockey registration process and register using the USA Hockey website at usahockey.com. Each participant (players and coaches) will pay the USA**

**Hockey individual membership fee and any applicable Affiliate individual membership fee at the time of the online registration.**

- b) All teams registering to participate in the NDL must submit their official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) to the designated NDL Registrar on or before October 15<sup>th</sup> of the season. A team roster registration form (1-T) shall not be effective until the date it is approved by the NDL Registrar through the USA Hockey portal.**
- c) All programs with NDL teams must also be members of their applicable Affiliate. Programs with NDL teams shall register those teams in the Affiliate where the NDL teams play home games and hold team practices.**
- d) All teams registering with the NDL must be full season teams with games and practices during the period September-February of the season.**
- e) Only U. S. citizens are eligible to compete on any team registered as part of the NDL.**
- f) The NDL will operate as a national league. Teams participating in the NDL will be open residency teams with no residency restrictions for players rostered on any NDL teams.**
- g) Players participating in the NDL may not be rostered or registered on any other hockey team during the same season, with the exception that such players may participate in Tier I and Tier II Junior Hockey games as permitted in the USA Hockey Youth/Junior Player Policy.**
- h) All NDL teams are required to have a team manager, and, at minimum one (1) locker room monitor listed on an NDL team roster (1-T). Team managers and locker room monitors listed on an NDL team roster must have current background screening and current SafeSport training.**
- i) No players may be added to an NDL team roster (1-T) after December 31<sup>st</sup> of the season.**

## **2. Roster Size**

**A limit of twenty (20) players (not more than eighteen (18) skaters) may be rostered and participate in National Development League games. All NDL teams must roster two (2) Goaltenders and no fourteen (14) year old players may be rostered as a Goaltender on an NDL team.**

## **3. Team Age Classifications**

**Programs and teams participating in the National Development League must register teams in the following USA Hockey age classifications:**

- a) 15U NDL – Fourteen (14) and Fifteen (15) year old players. No thirteen (13) year old player may participate in the NDL. A maximum of two (2) fourteen (14) year old players may be rostered on a 15U NDL team. No fourteen (14) year old player may be rostered as a Goaltender on a 15U NDL team.**
- b) 17U NDL – Sixteen (16) and Seventeen (17) year old players.**

**Programs participating in the NDL that also field Tier I teams may not field 150 and 16U Tier I teams in addition to their 15U and 17U NDL teams during the same season.**

#### **4. Vertical Integration between NDL Program Teams**

- a) Vertical integration of fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) year old players (up and down) is allowed between a program's NDL teams. No vertical integration is allowed for any fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) year old NDL players. A player participating in an NDL game under the vertical integration policy may play only one (1) game per day. There is no vertical integration between an NDL program's Tier I teams and an NDL team.**
- b) In games played by any NDL team against Tier I teams, the teams must follow the Tier I vertical integration rules as set forth in the Annual Guide.**
- c) In games played by any NDL team against Canadian teams, no vertical integration of players is allowed.**

#### **5. Post Season Play**

**National Development League teams are not eligible to participate in any USA Hockey National Championships. Team and player eligibility to participate in any NDL playoff or championship will be governed by the National Development League Guidebook rather than Section IX of the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations. The League Commissioner will decide any question on the eligibility of a player, team or coach to participate in any NDL playoff or championship based on the National Development League Guidebook. Should a player, team or coach be declared ineligible to compete in any NDL playoff or championship by a final decision of the League Commissioner, the player, team or coach may appeal its ineligibility to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee. Upon receipt of any such appeal the Player Development Committee shall render a decision as soon as possible. Notwithstanding Bylaw 10.F.(1)(b), the decision of the Player Development Committee shall be final.**

#### **6. Player Recruitment, Player Agreements and Tryouts.**

**National Development League teams/programs may recruit and sign players to Player Agreements according to the following timeline:**

- a) January 15<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup>: Year 1 NDL Only – Early Signing Period for any player.**
- b) January 15<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup>: Subsequent Years – Early Signing Period for NDL teams to sign their returning players.**
- c) February 1<sup>st</sup> – End of February: NDL Open Signing Period.**
- d) March 1<sup>st</sup> – End of National Championships: Blackout Period (no signing of players).**
- e) End of National Championships – 48 hours after National Championships – NDL Open Signing Period resumes**
  - i. Players participating in the USA Hockey National Championships may be signed to an NDL player agreement once that player's team has been eliminated from National Championship medal games.**
  - ii. NDL team (as well as Tier I teams) may begin player tryouts and signing of players 48 hours after the last game of the National Championships.**
- f) NDL teams are required to release any NDL team player from his Player Agreement without any financial penalty if the player is signing with the NDTP or a USHL team prior to that NDL team's first game. If a player seeks to leave an NDL team after that team's first game to play with the NDTP or a USHL team the player must satisfy any financial obligation to the NDL**

**team or the player and NDL team may reach a mutual agreement on any financial obligation of the player to the NDL team.**

- g) Player Agreements must be executed for all NDL players before they can be rostered on an NDL team. NDL teams may offer Player Agreements and sign a maximum of twenty (20) players to an NDL team.**
- h) An NDL team program must notify the NDL League Registrar of the name of any players signed to a Player Agreement and the specific team that the player committed to playing on within 24 hours after the signing of a Player Agreement.**
- i) Player Agreements offered by NDL teams/programs must provide information as required in the National Development League Guidebook.**
- j) The execution of a Player Agreement by a player and parent binds and commits the player to that NDL team for the entirety of the team's playing season. Likewise, the execution of a Player Agreement by an NDL team binds and commits that team to the player and secures a roster position for that player on the signing team for the entire applicable season. Any disputes between the player and the NDL team on the application of a Player Agreement may be resolved in the sole discretion of the NDL Commissioner as he/she deems proper under the circumstances, with the right to appeal to the National Appeals Committee pursuant to Bylaw 10.E.**

**7. Selection of Teams/Programs to Participate in the National Development League**  
**The specific criteria for team participation in the National Development League, the application and selection process, the annual team assessment due to the league, the number of teams in the League, the team operating requirements, the periodic review of team/program performance, and the withdrawal and continuation of teams within the League will be set out each season in the National Development League Guidebook on or before January 1 of each year.**

**8. Except as specifically set forth in this Section III I of the USA Hockey RULES & REGULATIONS the applicable Affiliate shall retain discipline authority over NDL teams and players.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

This legislation allows for the establishment of the National Development League. The USA Hockey Board of Directors approved a Resolution dated January 19, 2025 - Resolved that "USA Hockey confirms its commitment to the development of American hockey players throughout its programs and development routes, .....and emphasizes the opportunities available to American players to play hockey at the highest level of junior hockey in programs under the jurisdiction of USA Hockey." The stated purpose of the NDL (Proposal #6) is to establish the NDL as part of USA Hockey's high-performance national player development program to train and develop American players from across the country to advance to high level Junior Hockey programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in International competition. The establishment of the NDL is consistent with the commitment expressed by the USA Hockey Board in its recent Resolution.

Submitter: National Development League Working Group

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Legal Council			
Affiliate President's Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO  (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

No specific budget impact anticipated. An NDL Budget impact statement will be submitted.

**AUTHOR:Kris Knauss & John Coleman**

**AFFILIATION: Members National Development Working Group**

**EMAIL: [knauss@confluence-strategies.com](mailto:knauss@confluence-strategies.com) , [jkcole214@aol.com](mailto:jkcoble214@aol.com)**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Tournament Guidebook #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):** H. Completion Dates

**Section:** N/A

**Reference (sub-section):** N/A

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** p. 194

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

All district tournaments must be completed not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the national championships. Dates for national championships will be established by the Youth and Girls Councils at the Annual Meeting prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

All **state/affiliate, and/or** district tournaments must be completed not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the national championships. Dates for national championships will be established by the Youth and Girls Councils at the Annual Meeting prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

To include a deadline for state/affiliate teams advancing to High school and Tier II National Tournaments.

Submitter: National Tournament Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrars			
Affiliate Presidents			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
High School			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Joe Baudo

**AFFILIATION:** National Championship Tournament Chairperson

**EMAIL:** joe.baudo@nysaha.com

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): April 1, 2025

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the "Specific Wording of Proposal," bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director's office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Tournament Guidebook #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules and Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):** E. Number and Qualification of Teams

**Section:** (2) Nationals – Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls, High School Divisions

**Reference (sub-section):** (a)

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** p. 192

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

- (a) The Youth Tier I and Girls Tier I National Championship Tournament shall include a total of 16 teams (except that Youth 130 Tier I Nationals shall include 12 teams with no Host representative). The Youth Tier II and Girls Tier II National Championship Tournaments shall include up to 48 teams. The High School National Championship shall include up to 48 High School teams and up to 48 Girls High School teams. The High School Section will decide each year the specific number of teams for High School National Championships.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~striketrough~~)

- (a) The Youth Tier I and Girls Tier I National Championship Tournament shall include **up to a** total of 16 teams (~~except that Youth 130 Tier I Nationals shall include 12 teams with no Host representative~~). The Youth Tier II and Girls Tier II National Championship Tournaments shall include up to 48 teams. The High School National Championship shall include up to 48 High School teams and up to 48 Girls High School teams. The High School Section will decide each year the specific number of teams for High School National Championships.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:**

Allow the National Tournament Committee flexibility to determine the number of teams at each Tier I National Tournament (12 or 16).

Submitter: National Tournament Committee

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Girls Council			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Joe Baudo

**AFFILIATION:** National Championship Tournament Chairperson

**EMAIL:** joe.baudo@nysaha.com

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): April 1, 2025

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section - #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** *D. Tournament Eligibility and Registration*

**Reference (sub-section):** (6)

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 190

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

- (6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals
- (a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least twenty (20) games for youth teams, at least fourteen (14) games for girls teams and at least ten (10) games for all High School divisions, and
  - (b) Each youth and girls player must have played in at least ten (10) games during the season. Each player in all High School divisions must have played in at least five (5) games during the season.
  - (c) For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls, 10/5 all high school divisions) rule, that team’s player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the 20/10 (14/10 girls, 10/5 all high school divisions) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth and girls Tier I and Tier II teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for all High School divisions). If an affiliate, state or district tournament is held prior to December 31, player changes to the official team roster will not be accepted after the affiliate, state or district tournament begins. If a player is rostered on a team at the time the team participates in a State/Affiliate and/or District tournament before December 31, the player may not be rostered on a different official team roster after the affiliate, state, or district tournament begins.
  - (d) A game is a contest played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see paragraph Q. Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School division games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

- (6) Number of Games for Eligibility – **affiliate and/or** districts and nationals
- (a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least ~~twenty (20)~~ **eighteen (18)** games for youth **and girls** teams, at least ~~fourteen (14)~~ ~~games for girls teams~~ and at least ten (10) games for all High School divisions, and
  - (b) Each youth and girls player must have played in at least ~~ten (10)~~ **twelve (12)** games during the season. Each player in all High School divisions must have played in at least five (5) games during the season.
  - (c) For games to count in meeting the ~~20/10 (14/10 girls,~~ **18/12** (10/5 all high school divisions) rule, that team's player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the ~~20/10 (14/10 girls,~~ **18/12** (10/5 all high school divisions) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth and girls Tier I and Tier II teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for all High School divisions). If an affiliate, state or district tournament is held prior to December 31, player changes to the official team roster will not be accepted after the affiliate, state or district tournament begins. If a player is rostered on a team at the time the team participates in a State/Affiliate and/or District tournament before December 31, the player may not be rostered on a different official team roster after the affiliate, state, or district tournament begins.
  - (d) A game is a contest played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see paragraph Q. Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School division games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.

***Also, make any other applicable housekeeping changes in the Annual Guide to reference that the 20/10 youth and 14/10 girls rules are now 18/12 for both.***

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Revises the Youth 20/10 game count and Girls 14/10 game count requirements to be 18/12. High School remains at 10/5. This also removes the ambiguity and provides consistency between the Annual Guide and the National Tournament Guidebook on when the game count eligibility must be met.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Player Development			
Girls Council			
Youth Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
Registrar			
National Championship Committee			
USA Hockey BOD			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission**

**AFFILIATION: Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission**\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL: Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org**\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Registrars Section - #2

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Rules & Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY-LAW (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: *F. National Championship-Bound Teams*

Reference (sub-section): (6)

Paragraph / Page no(s): 173

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after ~~December 31~~ **February 15**. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

***Also, make any other applicable housekeeping changes in the Annual Guide to reference that the December 31 date is now February 15.***

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** The roster freeze deadline moving to 2/15 will allow teams that have had players injured or lost to Juniors in January to fill those spots.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Player Development			
Girls Council			
Youth Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
National Championship Committee			
Junior Council			
Registrar			
Board			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Mike McCullough & Registrar Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION: Registrar Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL: Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section #3

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria  
G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 174 – 177

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have

multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

#### G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in special circumstances as determined by the applicable Affiliate, the Affiliate may submit a request for approval of a new Tier I Program/Team during this Moratorium, which shall be submitted and reviewed by a Committee composed of the Vice President, Youth Council, Vice President Girls Council, and the Chair of the Registrar's Section. Any decision of this Committee to approve or deny a new Tier I Program/Team shall be final and not subject to appeal.

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible

administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.

- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 20%, and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 350 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 20% of that number would equal 70 players. In order to have teams of 18 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 16U and 19U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and have registered Girls team(s) with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section G, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Girls Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Girls Council.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

#### F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- **All Teams with rosters categorized as Tier 1 must be National Tournament Bound**
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may

include practices on other teams).

- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

#### G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in special circumstances as determined by the applicable Affiliate, the Affiliate may submit a request for approval of a new Tier I Program/Team during this Moratorium, which shall be submitted and reviewed by a Committee composed of the Vice President, Youth Council, Vice President Girls Council, and the Chair of the Registrar’s Section. Any decision of this Committee to approve or deny a new Tier I Program/Team shall be final and not subject to appeal.

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey’s Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate’s player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 20%, and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 350 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 20% of that number would equal 70 players. In order to have teams of 18 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. ~~In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the~~

~~limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph.~~ Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 16U and 19U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and have registered Girls team(s) with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- **Teams with rosters categorized as Tier 1 must be National Tournament Bound**
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section G, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Girls Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Girls Council.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** It is widely interpreted that Tier 1 and National Tournament declared are synonymous. This rule provides consistency in that interpretation.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar Section			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
National Championship Committee			
USA Hockey BOD			

Affiliate Presidents			
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**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section #4A

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 174 – 176

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have

multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of ~~157.5~~ 157.5% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- **(1)** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.

- **(2)** The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (~~±55%~~) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the ~~2023-24~~ season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by ~~±55%~~, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then ~~±55%~~ of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- **(3)** Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- **(4)** In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- **(5)** The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- **(6)** It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- **(7)** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the ~~201625-~~ ~~1726~~ season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register **the same number of** team(s) ~~in that age classification~~. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. ~~The Youth Council recommends that e~~Each Affiliate's teams ~~do~~ **are** not exceed a maximum of ~~±5~~ **5%** of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- **(8)** Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth

***Also, make any other applicable housekeeping changes in the Annual Guide to reference that the 15% is now 5%.***

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Reduce the allocation percentage of Tier 1 youth teams.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair & Tier 1 Commission

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Player Development			
Youth Council			
Registrar Section			
USA Hockey BOD			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission

**AFFILIATION:** Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section #4B

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria  
H. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 174 – 177

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age

classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

#### G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the

total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 20%, and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 350 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 20% of that number would equal 70 players. In order to have teams of 18 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/ American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 16U and 19U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and have registered Girls team(s) with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section G, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Girls Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Girls Council.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- **(1)** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- **(2)** The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in ~~each age classification~~ **the Tier 1 age classifications of 13 through 18U** shall be limited. ~~by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, t~~ **The number of Tier I teams in each age classification shall not exceed fifteen percent (15.5%) of the average total players registered in that 14U age classification in that Affiliate two seasons over the four (4) seasons prior. (i.e., the average number of the players registration numbers in the 14U age classification in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 over the 2021-2022 to 2024-2025 seasons would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent every 4 seasons. Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total average number of players in that 14U age classification shall be multiplied by 15.5%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has an average of 360 540 players in an the 14U age classification in the 2020-21 2021-2022 to 2024-25 seasons, then 15.5% of that number would equal 54 40 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that each two birth year age classification in the 2022-23 season. Single birth year age classifications would have 50% of the calculation.** In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- **(3)** Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).

- **(4)** In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- **(5)** The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- **(6)** It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- **(7)** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the ~~2016-2017~~**2025-2026** season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register **the same number of** team(s) ~~in that age classification~~. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. ~~The Youth Council recommends that~~ **Each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 7.5%** of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- **(8)** Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

#### G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- **(1)** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- **(2)** The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited. ~~by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that~~ **the 14U age classification**. ~~In each age classification,~~ **The number of Tier I teams in each age classification** shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the **average** total players registered in that **the 14U** age classification in that Affiliate **over the four (4)** two seasons prior (i.e., **the average number of players in the 14U age classification** player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for ~~2020-21~~ **over the 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 seasons** would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the ~~2022-23~~ **2026-2027** season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, the total number of players in that **the 14U** age classification shall be multiplied by 20%, and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams

permitted at each age classification in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has **an average of 350 players in an the 14U age classification in the 202-21 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 seasons** season, then 20% of that number would equal 70 players. ~~In order to have teams of~~ **divided by 18 players, and** the Affiliate would be limited to three **(3)** Tier I teams at that **each** age classification in the **2026-2027** ~~2022-23~~ season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/ American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- ~~(3)~~ Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 16U and 19U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- ~~(4)~~ In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and have registered Girls team(s) with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- ~~(5)~~ It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- ~~(6)~~ Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the ~~2016-17~~ **2025-2026** season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section G, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Girls Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- ~~(7)~~ Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Girls Council.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Reduce the allocation percentage of Tier 1 teams and make the calculation process simpler.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair & Tier 1 Commission

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Player Development			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Registrar Section			
USA Hockey BOD			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission**

**AFFILIATION: Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission**\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL: Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org**\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section #5

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section: V. COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s): 182**

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**V.B.(2).:**

**(2) Evidence of Level**

It is the responsibility of the local association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. All coaches have until December 31 of the current season to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic.

Beginning January 1 of the current season, prior to the start of each game, all coaches present are required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet in order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the scoresheet, for that game.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**V.B.(2).:**

**(2) Evidence of Level**

It is the responsibility of the local association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. All coaches have until December 31 of the current season to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic.

~~Beginning January 1 of the current season, p~~**P**rior to the start of each game, ~~all the~~ **Head** coaches present are **is** required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet ~~in-~~ order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the scoresheet, for that game.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Confirm that coaches should sign the scoresheet prior to every game.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar Section			
Girls Council			
Youth Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
Coaches Section			
Referee Section			
USA Hockey BOD			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO  (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** Registrar Section \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Registrars Section #6

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Rules & Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): VIII. GAMES, EXHIBITION GAMES, INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS, SANCTIONED LEAGUES AND SANCTIONED EVENTS

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: C. Definition of a Tournament:

Reference (sub-section):

Paragraph / Page no(s): 185

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**C. Definition of a Tournament:** Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where three or more legally-registered teams compete within a specified time frame for the purpose of declaring a champion. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams, except Association Exchanges (limited to two (2) Associations), even though there are no winners declared.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

~~**C. Definition of a Tournament:** Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where three or more legally-registered teams compete within a specified time frame for the purpose of declaring a champion. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams, except Association Exchanges (limited to two (2) Associations), even though there are no winners declared.~~

**C. Definition of a Tournament:** *Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where multiple, legally-registered, teams compete within a specified time frame in which a champion may or may not be determined. This shall include gatherings typically consisting of three (3) or more teams, except Association Exchanges which are limited to two (2) Associations. This shall also include events described as Showcases, Exhibitions, 3 on 3, or 4 on 4 Pond style events, league championship tournaments, or any other gathering of teams outside of regular season league games including events where a registration fee is charged to participate. At the discretion of the District Registrar certain 8U Jamboree style events or Disabled events designed to make it easier for teams to play other teams in the league, where no champion is determined, may be sanctioned as a Special Event rather than an Invitational Tournament.*

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Changes definition of a tournament requiring tournament sanction.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
USA Hockey BOD			
Registrar Section			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
Coaches Section			
Referee Section			
Disabled Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**    **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

This clarification of the “Invitational Tournament” definition will clarify the scope of the types of events that need additional sanctioning. This will increase the number of events that are sanctioned as invitational tournaments each year.

**AUTHOR: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission**

**AFFILIATION: Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission**

**EMAIL: Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Registrars Section - #7

NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide

MAIN HEADING: Rules & Regulations

REGULATION (Heading): IX. STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY-LAW (Heading):

BY-LAW (Heading):

Section: *F. National Championship-Bound Teams*

Reference (sub-section): (6)

Paragraph / Page no(s): 173

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

**Goaltenders:**

**If during the time period of December 31st of the current season when rosters are frozen and seven (7) days before the start of the team's state/affiliate championships a rostered goaltender is lost due to a season ending injury as determined and attested to by the player's treating physician, the team which lost the rostered goal tender may add a replacement goaltender from lower level team providing the following criteria is met:**

- 1. A Tier I, Tier II or High School National Tournament Bound team may replace their lost goaltender with a goaltender rostered on a non-National Tournament Bound team, provided the lost goaltender has been identified as a goaltender on the roster and the replacement goaltender has not been rostered on any National Tournament Bound team during the**

**current season. The replacement goaltender is exempt from the USA Hockey game count.**

**2. The injured goaltender must be dropped from the National Tournament Bound roster.**

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** The purpose of this rule is to make sure National Championship-bound teams are not left short-handed at the goaltender position late in the season and prior to National Championships because a goaltender is lost to season-ending injury. It should also virtually eliminate the need for teams to request an Emergency Backup Goaltender.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
National Championship Committee			
Affiliate Presidents			
Girls Council			
Youth Council			
Junior Council			
Registrar			
Board			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Mike McCullough & Registrar Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION: Registrar Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL: Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org** \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section #8

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** C. Registration

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 174 – 177

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall be completed and forwarded to the official district registration office by the appropriate date as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide of the current playing season for teams eligible for district playoffs and national championships.

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall not be effective until the date it is approved by the official District or Associate Registrar through the USA Hockey portal.

A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for (1) high school, girls high school, college and women’s college which may roster 30 players and may dress 20 players, (2) adult and women’s teams which may roster 25 players and may dress 20 players, and (3) Tier I teams at the 18U, 16U and 150 youth classifications and 19U girls classification which may roster and dress 22 players, of which not more than 20 shall be skaters (see Section XI: Junior Hockey for junior roster limits). Affiliates may allow their post-season (spring/summer) teams, formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, to have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game. A player may be registered in only one (1) national ice hockey federation.

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.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)**

**C. Registration**

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall be completed and forwarded to the official district registration office by the appropriate date as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide of the current playing season for teams eligible for district playoffs and national championships.

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall not be effective until the date it is approved by the official District or Associate Registrar through the USA Hockey portal.

**One Team – One Roster - Players rostered on a Tier 1 declared team may not be rostered on any other regular season, Invitational Tournament or Pre/Post roster unless properly released from their Tier 1 team per section III.B.(b).**

A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for (1) high school, girls high school, college and women’s college which may roster 30 players and may dress 20 players, (2) adult and women’s teams which may roster 25 players and may dress 20 players, and (3) Tier I teams at the 18U, 16U and 15O youth classifications and 19U girls classification which may roster and dress 22 players, of which not more than 20 shall be skaters (see Section XI: Junior Hockey for junior roster limits). Affiliates may allow their post-season (spring/summer) teams, formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, to have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game. A player may be registered in only one (1) national ice hockey federation.

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.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To remove the opportunity for Tier 1 teams to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> non-national tournament bound roster with ineligible players.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar Section			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
USA Hockey BOD			
National Championship Committee			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission\_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION: Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission EMAIL:**  
**Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org**\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars Section #9

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION  
IX. ~~STATE/AFFILIATE~~ AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS  
AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** D. Proper Affiliate for Team/Program Registration  
F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria  
C. Team Classifications

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 172 – 176

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

**III.D.:**

- (1) 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).
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.

- (6) 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.

### **III.F.:**

#### **F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria**

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.

- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

#### Team Classifications

YOUTH/GIRLS – Within each Youth and Girls classification, the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships shall be at the Tier I and Tier II levels with eligibility to participate as follows:

Tier I – any youth or girls team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a Tier I national championship bound team.

Tier II – any youth or girls team that is certified Tier II by an Affiliate organization which has jurisdiction over the team. Tier II certification will be based on criteria set up by the Affiliate and approved by the Youth Council.

If the Affiliate rules permit a certified Tier II team to participate in the Affiliate’s Tier I district playoffs and a certified Tier II team elects to participate in that Affiliate’s Tier I district playoffs, then that certified Tier II team shall be ineligible to participate in the Tier II national championships.

#### **SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

#### **III.D.:**

- (1) A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams, **except for NDL 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).

- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.

**GIRLS** - 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.

**YOUTH** - **Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing with a billet family the player will not be considered a resident of the billet affiliate. This is true regardless where the player is attending school. The location of the school shall not be considered the player's residence.**

**YOUTH PREP DIVISIONS** - **Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending at a residential boarding school elsewhere, the location of the school shall be considered the player's residence. Residential boarding schools are defined as players who attend classes in a supervised, on campus room & board environment.**

**The residency status of a player 18 or older shall be where the player lives.**

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.

### **III.F.:**

#### **F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in special circumstances as determined by the applicable Affiliate, the Affiliate may submit a request for approval of a new Tier I Program/Team during this Moratorium, which shall be submitted and reviewed by a Committee composed of the Vice President, Youth Council, Vice President Girls Council, and the Chair of the Registrar's Section. Any decision of this Committee to approve or deny a new Tier I Program/Team shall be final and not subject to appeal.

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).

- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.
- **Tier 1 Residency – Each season, an Affiliate will choose the level of residency that applies to all Tier 1 rostered teams in their affiliate. Affiliates may select a limit from a range of no out of district players to the number below for each age classifications.**
  - 130: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 4 out of affiliate players**
  - 14U: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 4 out of affiliate players**
  - 15O: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 6 out of affiliate players**
  - 16U: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 6 out of affiliate players**
  - 18U: Minimum 51% in affiliate residency**
- **Tier 1 Prep Divisions teams must be scholastic based defined as residential boarding schools and pre/post or split season teams where players leave their teams to attend school and participate on school teams.**

#### Team Classifications

YOUTH/GIRLS – Within each Youth and Girls classification, the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships shall be at the Tier I, **Tier I Prep** and Tier II levels with eligibility to participate as follows:

Tier I – any youth or girls team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a Tier I **or Tier I Prep** national championship bound team.

Tier II – any youth or girls team that is certified Tier II by an Affiliate organization which has jurisdiction over the team. Tier II certification will be based on criteria set up by the Affiliate and approved by the Youth Council.

If the Affiliate rules permit a certified Tier II team to participate in the Affiliate's Tier I district playoffs and a certified Tier II team elects to participate in that Affiliate's Tier I district playoffs, then that certified Tier II team shall be ineligible to participate in the Tier II national championships.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Provide clarification on how residency is determined for different categories of teams.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar Section			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
USA Hockey BOD			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES  NO  (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission. Keith Barrett, VP Youth Council and Tier 1 Commission

**AFFILIATION:** Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

USA HOCKEY, INC.  
2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

PROPOSAL NUMBER: 2025 AM – Registrars Section #10  
NAME OF PUBLICATION: Annual Guide  
MAIN HEADING: Rules & Regulations  
REGULATION (Heading): III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION  
BY-LAW (Heading):  
Section: B. Tryouts/Player Selection  
Reference (sub-section): (1).(a) Agreements between Player/Parent and the Team/Program; Rosters  
Paragraph / Page no(s): 167-168

CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**III.B.(1).(a).3.b:**

the Player Agreement would not restrict a player from playing with any other team, including a Tier I team, if the Signing Team and player mutually agree for the player to be released by the Signing Team;

**III.B.(1).(a).5:**

Teams are only allowed to offer and sign the number of players to Player Agreements equal to the maximum number of roster spots permitted on a USA Hockey Roster at any one time for the Signing Team's rostered age level. For example, a team that is permitted to have 20 players on a USA Hockey Roster may not sign more than 20 players to Player Agreements and then move players on and off the roster. A team may only sign additional players to Player Agreements if another player on the roster has been released from their Player Agreement pursuant to subsection (a) 3. above.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**III.B.(1).(a).3.b:**

the Player Agreement would not restrict a player from playing with any other team, including a Tier I team, if the Signing Team and player mutually agree for the player to be released by the Signing Team. **A player may not re-sign with the same team in the same season;**

**III.B.(1).(a).5:**

**Player Agreements must be executed for all Tier 1 players before they can be rostered on a Tier 1 team.** Teams are only allowed to offer and sign the number of players to Player Agreements equal to the maximum number of roster spots permitted on a USA Hockey Roster at any one time for the Signing Team's rostered age level. For example, a team that is permitted to have 20 players on a USA Hockey Roster may not sign more than 20 players to Player Agreements and then move players on and off the roster. A team may only sign additional players to Player Agreements if another player on the roster has been released from their Player Agreement pursuant to subsection (a) 3. above.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Provide clarification that Player Agreements are required for all Tier 1 teams and players can't resign with the same team in the same season.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission.

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar Section			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
USA Hockey BOD			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey's budget?

YES  NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough, Registrar Section Chair, on behalf of the Registrar Section and Tier 1 Commission. Keith Barrett, VP Youth Council and Tier 1 Commission

**AFFILIATION:** Registrar Section & Tier 1 Commission \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** Mike.McCullough@USAHockey.org \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Registrars #11

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:**

**REGULATION (Heading): II. CLASSIFICATIONS**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section: (2) Citizenship Eligibility**

**Reference (sub-section): (d)**

**Paragraph / Page no(s): Page 163-164**

**CURRENT WORDING: (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)**

- (d) In addition, a person who is a citizen of another country and resides in the United States under political asylum, or a claim therefore, refusing to return to his/her home country for a bona-fide, non-hockey related reason, shall be eligible for competition in the USA Hockey domestic program after he/she has continuously resided in this country for a period of one (1) year, with one or more of his/her parents, and further, shall have secured the release and IIHF transfer required above. Copies of all forms necessary to complete this transfer shall be provided by the national office to the team, league and council involved.

Notwithstanding the above, for the 2024-25 USA Hockey membership season, USA Hockey will permit players who (i) are a citizen of Ukraine, Russia, or Belarus, (ii) reside in the United States and are refusing to return to his/her country for a bona fide, non-hockey related reason, and (iii) have submitted documentation to the United States government for political asylum, to participate in USA Hockey programs subject to the following requirements:

1. The player shall be eligible to compete only in the Youth 18U and below, Girls 19U and below, High School and Junior hockey age classifications;
2. Only one player under this exception shall be allowed on any Tier I or Tier 2 team participating in the USA Hockey Nationals or Affiliate or District tournaments leading to USA Hockey Nationals; and
3. The player shall have secured the release and IIHF transfer required under paragraph (c) above.

Copies of all forms necessary to complete this transfer shall be provided by the national office to the team, league and council involved.

USA Hockey will evaluate this rule for the 2025-26 season between June and September, 2025.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)**

(d) In addition, a person who is a citizen of another country and resides in the United States under political asylum, or a claim therefore, refusing to return to his/her home country for a bona-fide, non-hockey related reason, shall be eligible for competition in the USA Hockey domestic program after he/she has continuously resided in this country for a period of one (1) year, with one or more of his/her parents, and further, shall have secured the release and IIHF transfer required above. Copies of all forms necessary to complete this transfer shall be provided by the national office to the team, league and council involved.

Notwithstanding the above, for the ~~2024-25~~ **2025-26** USA Hockey membership season, USA Hockey will permit players who (i) are a citizen of Ukraine, Russia, or Belarus, (ii) reside in the United States and are refusing to return to his/her country for a bona fide, non-hockey related reason, and (iii) have submitted documentation to the United States government for political asylum, to participate in USA Hockey programs subject to the following requirements:

1. The player shall be eligible to compete only in the Youth 18U and below, Girls 19U and below, High School and Junior hockey age classifications;
2. Only one player under this exception shall be allowed on any Tier I or Tier 2 team participating in the USA Hockey Nationals or Affiliate or District tournaments leading to USA Hockey Nationals; and
3. The player shall have secured the release and IIHF transfer required under paragraph (c) above.

Copies of all forms necessary to complete this transfer shall be provided by the national office to the team, league and council involved.

USA Hockey will evaluate this rule for the ~~2025-26~~ **2026-27** season between June and September, ~~2025~~ **2026**.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Housekeeping updating dates for 2025-26 season.

Submitter: Mike McCullough, Section Director Registrar

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Registrar Section			
Youth Council			

**AUTHOR:** Mike McCullough

**AFFILIATION:** Section Director Registrar

**EMAIL:** [mike.mccullough@usahockey.org](mailto:mike.mccullough@usahockey.org)

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – High School #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA Hockey Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:**

**REGULATION (Heading):** Rules & Regulations

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** II Classifications

**Reference (sub-section):** B. (1)

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 161-162

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**HIGH SCHOOL Pure (Division 1), Combined (Division 2),  
Prep and Girls Teams**

Restricted to amateurs who are enrolled as full-time students (grades 9-12), and under 20 years of age on or before December 31 of the Playing Season. Eligibility shall not exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with the player's freshman year (9th grade). Fifth year and Postgraduate (PG) players are not eligible to participate on USA Hockey High School national championship bound registered teams.

For home-schooled students, the term "attend" shall mean that the student is enrolled at a high school and is designated as carrying sufficient credits to be considered a full time-student for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the high school upon the student completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student's compliance with all of the eligibility requirements.

**Clarification:** Those High School students graduating mid-year shall no longer be considered full-time students and, therefore, are no longer eligible to play High School hockey, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time as defined by the school.

High School teams shall register in their appropriate division which shall be governed by eligibility requirements of the respective Affiliates. The following definitions apply to High School team registration classifications:

**Division I (Pure):** High school teams that consist of players attending the same high school or participating in the same educational program as full-time students who are eligible to play in sanctioned varsity sports at that school.

**Division II (Combined):** Community or non-community based academic high schools where teams consist of players representing more than one high school who are full-time students eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at any one of the combined schools.

**Prep School Division:** Boarding schools or Academies that house players in a school dormitory or with billet families, and non-community based high schools consisting of full-time students attending the same school and non-community based online schools. All teams, players and coaches must register with USA Hockey prior to application for participation.

**Girls Division:** Pure, Combined, or prep school teams consisting of full-time, female students attending the same high school or prep school, attending more than one high school/prep school, or full-time students that are eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at that school.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL: (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)**

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**HIGH SCHOOL Pure (Division 1), Combined (Division 2), Prep Divisions(16U and 18U) and Girls Teams Division**

Restricted to amateurs who are enrolled as full-time students (grades 9-12), and under 20 years of age (**except for Prep 16U and Prep 18U teams**) on or before December 31 of the Playing Season. Eligibility shall not exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with the player's freshman year (9th grade). Fifth year and Postgraduate (PG) players are not eligible to participate on USA Hockey High School national championship bound registered teams.

For home-schooled students, the term "attend" shall mean that the student is enrolled at a high school and is designated as carrying sufficient credits to be considered a full time-student for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the high school upon the student completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student's compliance with all of the eligibility requirements.

**Clarification:** Those High School students graduating mid-year shall no longer be considered full-time students and, therefore, are no longer eligible to play High School hockey, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time as defined by the school.

High School teams shall register in their appropriate division which shall be governed by eligibility requirements of the respective Affiliates. The following definitions apply to High School team registration classifications:

**Division I (Pure):** High school teams that consist of players attending the same high school or participating in the same educational program as full-time students who are eligible to play in sanctioned varsity sports at that school.

**Division II (Combined):** Community or non-community based academic high schools where teams consist of players representing more than one high school who are full-time students eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at any one of the combined schools.

~~**Prep School Division Prep 16 U Division:** Boardings school or Academies that house players in a school dormitory or with billet families, and non-community based high schools consisting of full-time students attending the same school and non-community based online schools. All teams, players and~~

~~coaches must register with USA Hockey prior to application for participation.~~

**Prep 16 U teams may be pure or combined teams and split-season teams that are community or non-community based academic high school teams or teams utilizing an online high school educational program where players are full-time students eligible to play varsity sports for the school or one of the combined schools, including Boarding schools and Academies that house players in a school dormitory.**

**Prep 18 U Division: Prep 18 U teams may be pure or combined teams and split-season teams that are community or non-community based academic high school teams or teams utilizing an online high school educational program where players are full-time students eligible to play varsity sports for the school or one of the combined schools, including Boarding schools and Academies that house players in a school dormitory.**

**Girls Division:** Pure, Combined, or prep school teams consisting of full-time, female students attending the same high school or prep school, attending more than one high school/prep school, or full-time students that are eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at that school.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Increase the number of teams eligible to participate in the High School National Championships.

Submitter: Don Wright, High School Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Affiliate Presidents Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES** NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

This would increase the High School National Championship from 4 Divisions to 5 Divisions with some additional cost for Championship awards.

**AUTHOR: Don Wright**

**AFFILIATION: High School Section Chair**

**EMAIL: donvwright89@gmail.com**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 4/1/25

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org">emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – High School #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** USA Hockey Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:**

**REGULATION (Heading):** Rules & Regulations

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** IX State/Affiliate and/or District Playoffs and National Championships

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 189-190

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**HIGH SCHOOL** – Any high school team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a High School national championship bound team shall be eligible to participate in the High School National Championship. Representation from each state will be determined by the state Affiliate participating in the tournament.

For districts only, these rules and regulations may be modified for local and state association competition and districts that are composed of a single state, as conditions may require.

Player eligibility regulations may not be less restrictive than those governing national championships.

Teams seeking to participate in the High School National Championship should play a regular season schedule in a high school league as a team, if available within that team’s state, or compete against other high school registered teams during their regular season schedule. They should not be an “all-star” team formed for the purpose of attending the High School National Championship.

A High School player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a National Tournament bound Division II (Combined) High School team in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission. In the event that a High School player has been denied such permission to play on a Division II (Combined) High School team other than in the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the National Championship Appeal Committee.

As set forth in greater detail each season in the USA Hockey District and National Championship Guidebook, to achieve balance and parity at the

High School National Championship, teams participating in the High School National Championship (other than Girls teams) shall be placed in three (3) divisions (3A, 2A and 1A) with the 3A division made up of teams from states that have traditionally demonstrated a high level of competitiveness at prior High School National Championships and/or teams that have demonstrated a high level of competitive play during the current season.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikerough~~)

**HIGH SCHOOL** – Any high school team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a High School national championship bound team shall be eligible to participate in the High School National Championship. Representation from each state will be determined by the state Affiliate participating in the tournament. **Prep 16U and Prep 18 U and split-season teams may participate in the High School Prep 16U or the Prep 18 U divisions of the High School National Championship.**

For districts only, these rules and regulations may be modified for local and state association competition and districts that are composed of a single state, as conditions may require.

Player eligibility regulations may not be less restrictive than those governing national championships.

**Except for Prep 16U and Prep 19 U Prep classified teams,** ~~±~~ teams seeking to participate in the High School National Championship should play a regular season schedule in a high school league as a team, if available within that team’s state, or compete against other high school registered teams during their regular season schedule. They should not be an “all-star” team formed for the purpose of attending the High School National Championship.

A High School player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a National Tournament bound Division II (Combined) High School team in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission. In the event that a High School player has been denied such permission to play on a Division II (Combined) High School team other than in the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the National Championship Appeal Committee.

As set forth in greater detail each season in the USA Hockey District and National Championship Guidebook, to achieve balance and parity at the High School National Championship, teams participating in the High School National Championship (other than Girls teams) shall be placed in three (~~3~~ **4**) divisions (~~3A~~ **Prep 16U, Prep 18U, 2A and 1A**). **The Prep 16U and the Prep 18U divisions will include Prep school and academy teams and community or non-community based split-season pure or combined teams where the teams consist of players who are full-time students representing one or more than one school and the players are eligible to play varsity sports at that school, including Boarding Schools and Academies that house players in school dormitory. Teams will be assigned to Division 2A and 1A of the High School National Championship based on level of competitiveness at prior High School National Championships and/or the level of competitive play during the current season.** ~~with the 3A division made up of teams from states that have traditionally demonstrated a high level of competitiveness at prior High School National Championships and/or teams that have demonstrated a high level of competitive play during the current season.~~

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Restructure High School National Championship if High School Proposal #1 is adopted.

Submitter: Don Wright, High School Section Chair

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Affiliate Presidents Committee			
Player Development Committee			
Coaches Section			
Registrars Section			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES** NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

This would increase the High School National Championship from 4 Divisions to 5 Divisions with some additional cost for Championship awards.

**AUTHOR: Don Wright**

**AFFILIATION: High School Section Chair**

**EMAIL: donvwright89@gmail.com**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: 4/1/2025

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Playing Rules Committee #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Rules & Regulations

**REGULATION (Heading):** VII. Playing Rules

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 183 - 184

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**VII. PLAYING RULES**

USA Hockey will publish two official playing rules books – one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Youth, Adult and Girls ice hockey classifications and one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Junior classifications. In addition, USA Hockey shall make available on the USA Hockey website, on or before August 1 of the current membership season, the Official Rules of Sled Hockey, which shall contain all sled hockey specific rules that are not covered in the Official Rules of Ice Hockey. All constituent members must abide by the appropriate rulebook. Constituent members include all teams registered with USA Hockey as well as the leagues in which these teams are playing. No other playing rules book will be allowed.

Any requested modifications to the playing rules by any Affiliate or local league must be submitted to the district referee-in-chief for their review. The district referee-in-chief will then submit their recommendation to the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee who shall make the final decision.

For the Junior version of the USA Hockey playing rules, any requested modifications to the playing rules shall be submitted to the Junior Council for review and recommendation prior to final review and approval by the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.

These requests must be submitted in writing prior to the start of each season and no later than August 15.

Changes to the above policy can be made from time to time by the Executive Committee.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**VII. PLAYING RULES**

USA Hockey will publish two official playing rules books – one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Youth, ~~Adult and Girls~~, **High School, Adult and Disabled** ice hockey classifications and one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Junior classifications. ~~In addition, USA Hockey shall make available on the USA Hockey website, on or~~

before August 1 of the current membership season, the Official Rules of Sled Hockey, which shall contain all sled hockey specific rules that are not covered in the Official Rules of Ice Hockey. All constituent members must abide by the appropriate rulebook. Constituent members include all teams registered with USA Hockey as well as the leagues in which these teams are playing. No other playing rules book will be allowed.

Any requested modifications to the playing rules by any Affiliate or local league must be submitted to the district referee-in-chief for their review. The district referee-in-chief will then submit their recommendation to the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee who shall make the final decision.

For the Junior version of the USA Hockey playing rules, any requested modifications to the playing rules shall be submitted to the Junior Council for review and recommendation prior to final review and approval by the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.

These requests must be submitted in writing prior to the start of each season and no later than August 15.

Changes to the above policy can be made from time to time by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Amend language to reflect that all Disabled playing rules have been incorporated into the general playing rules, and replaces “Executive Committee” with the “Board of Directors”

Submitter: Sarah Fraser, Playing Rules Committee Chairperson

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
PLAYING RULES			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR:** BJ Ringrose

**AFFILIATION:** Manager, Youth Officiating Development

**EMAIL:** bjr@usahockey.org

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org):

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Finance #1

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** District and Affiliate Association Jurisdiction

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading): 3. DISTRICT AND AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION JURISDICTION**

**Section:**

**Reference:**

**Paragraph / Page no: 67**

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**3. DISTRICT AND AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION JURISDICTION**

Districts for supervision and operation of USA Hockey's activities will be established by the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting, subject to review and modification by the Board, at the Board's discretion, at its Annual Meeting, or at its Winter Meeting or any Special Meeting(s). Each District shall be composed of one (1) or more Affiliate Association designated as such by the Board of Directors. Districts may organize themselves as 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey. Districts shall account for all funds collected by the District or its programs, which funds shall be held by the District in trust and used solely for hockey programs of USA Hockey or the District or Affiliates within the District. Districts shall provide an annual financial report of operations to the Executive Director of USA Hockey and to each Affiliate within the District.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**3. DISTRICT AND AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION JURISDICTION**

Districts for supervision and operation of USA Hockey's activities will be established by the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting, subject to review and modification by the Board, at the Board's discretion, at its Annual Meeting, or at its Winter Meeting or any Special Meeting(s). Each District shall be composed of one (1) or more Affiliate Association designated as such by the Board of Directors. Districts ~~may~~ **comprised of more than one Affiliate shall** organize themselves as 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey. **If a District comprised of only one Affiliate seeks to incorporate, it must be a 501(c)(3).** Districts shall account for all funds collected by the District or its programs, which funds shall be held by the District in trust and used solely for hockey programs of USA Hockey or the District or Affiliates within the District. Districts shall provide an annual financial report of operations to the Executive Director of USA Hockey and to each Affiliate within the District.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Requires Districts that are more than one Affiliate must be organized as 501(c)(3) corporations.

Submitter: Paul Day on behalf of the Finance and Investment Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Finance			
Legal			
Affiliate Presidents			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**   **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Paul Day**

**AFFILIATION: Finance Committee**

**EMAIL: pmdktd@comcast.net**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Finance Committee #2

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):** Officers

**BY-LAW (Heading):** Elected Officers

**Section:** Executive Director

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 84 C. 3,4,5

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

(3) The Executive Director shall receive all monies of USA Hockey and deposit same in a chartered bank selected by the Finance and Investment Committee. He/She shall keep proper books of account and pay all bills budgeted by USA Hockey or approved by the Finance and Investment Committee. Official numbered receipts are to be issued for all monies received, the duplicates to be kept on file. Checks shall be signed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey, or his/her designee, and checks over the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) shall require two signatures. The Treasurer shall be the alternate signing officer for USA Hockey. Both shall be bonded for not less than \$200,000.

(4) The Executive Director shall cause to be prepared the annual financial statement each year, which shall be presented to the members of the Board of Directors after being duly audited, for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. He/She shall be treasurer of all committees of USA Hockey. The Executive Director shall be and is hereby authorized with the concurrence of the President for and in the name of USA Hockey, to draw, accept, sign and make all or any bills of exchange, promissory notes, checks and orders for the payment of money; to pay and receive all monies and to give acceptance for the same, to borrow monies from time to time from a chartered bank selected by the Finance and Investment Committee upon the credit of USA Hockey in such amounts as he/she may deem proper and by way of overdraft or otherwise, to grant securities by way of mortgage, hypothecation of pledge covering all or any of the property and assets of USA Hockey as security for all or any money so borrowed and interest thereon and generally for and in the name and on the behalf of USA Hockey to transact with the bank any business he/she may think fit.

(5) The Executive Director shall be and is hereby authorized with the concurrence of the President on behalf of USA Hockey to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the bank (for credit of USA Hockey account only), all or any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Checks or Orders for the payment of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse any or all of them on behalf of USA Hockey; also from time to time to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between USA Hockey and the bank; and to receive all paid checks and vouchers, unpaid and unacceptable Bills of Exchange and other negotiable instruments.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-strikethrough)

**(3) The Executive Director shall oversee the USA Hockey Accounting Policies and Procedures as approved by the Board of Directors.** ~~The Executive Director shall receive all monies of USA Hockey and deposit same in a chartered bank selected by the Finance and Investment Committee. He/She shall keep proper books of account and pay all bills budgeted by USA Hockey or approved by the Finance and Investment Committee. Official numbered receipts are to be issued for all monies received, the duplicates to be kept on file. Checks shall be signed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey, or his/her designee, and checks over the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) shall require two signatures. The Treasurer shall be the alternate signing officer for USA Hockey. Both shall be bonded for not less than \$200,000.~~

~~(4) The Executive Director shall cause to be prepared the annual financial statement each year, which shall be presented to the members of the Board of Directors after being duly audited, for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. He/She shall be treasurer of all committees of USA Hockey. The Executive Director shall be and is hereby authorized with the concurrence of the President for and in the name of USA Hockey, to draw, accept, sign and make all or any bills of exchange, promissory notes, checks and orders for the payment of money; to pay and receive all monies and to give acceptance for the same, to borrow monies from time to time from a chartered bank selected by the Finance and Investment Committee upon the credit of USA Hockey in such amounts as he/she may deem proper and by way of overdraft or otherwise, to grant securities by way of mortgage, hypothecation or pledge covering all or any of the property and assets of USA Hockey as security for all or any money so borrowed and interest thereon and generally for and in the name and on the behalf of USA Hockey to transact with the bank any business he/she may think fit.~~

(5) The Executive Director shall **oversee all financial matters that USA Hockey are operated in compliance with the USA Hockey Accounting Policies and Procedures as approved by the Board of Directors.** ~~shall be and is hereby authorized with the concurrence of the President on behalf of USA Hockey to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the bank (for credit of USA Hockey account only), all or any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Checks or Orders for the payment of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse any or all of them on behalf of USA Hockey; also from time to time to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between USA Hockey and the bank; and to receive all paid checks and vouchers, unpaid and unacceptable Bills of Exchange and other negotiable instruments.~~

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To update Bylaws to conform to USA Hockey operations in a larger business than when bylaws were initially drafted.

Submitter: Paul Day, Declan Farmer, Steve Oleheiser, John Tobin, Donna Guariglia

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Finance			
Legal			
Board			
Audit			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

YES NO (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Paul Day**

**AFFILIATION: Finance Committee**

**EMAIL: pmdktd@comcast.net**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquire@usahockey.org">emily.mcquire@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Finance Committee #3

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** Annual Guide

**MAIN HEADING:** Bylaws

**REGULATION (Heading):** Audit Committee

**BY-LAW (Heading):** Councils Committees and Sections

**Section:** 6.B.(4)(a)

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):** 94

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)

**(4) Audit Committee**

**(a) Composition**

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least six (6) persons, all of whom shall be Directors. The Audit Committee members other than the Athletes shall be appointed by the President, upon the advice of the Nominating Committee and may be removed by the Board at its discretion. As a Designated Committee, the Athlete Representation Requirement on the Audit Committee shall be met by having 33.3% of the voting membership of the Audit Committee appointed by the President from the Eligible Athletes, fifty percent (50%) of which must be 10 Year Athletes and the remaining fifty percent (50%) of which may be either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes, which appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee. The term of office of the Audit Committee members shall be the same as their term as Congress Representatives, provided that no person shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years as a member of the Audit Committee. The President shall designate a Chair from the appointed committee members. Each person appointed to the Audit Committee shall: 1. Not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of USA Hockey at any time during the past two years; and Annual Guide 95Bylaws 2. Be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements or become able to do so within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Audit Committee. Members of the Audit Committee should understand generally accepted accounting principles; have experience preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements of similar complexity to those of; and understand internal controls, procedures for financial reporting, and audit committee functions. Compliance with the foregoing requirements shall be determined by the Board of Directors in its business judgment.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)

(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**(4) Audit Committee**

**(a) Composition**

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least six (6) persons, all of whom shall be Directors. The Audit Committee members other than the Athletes shall be appointed by the President, upon the advice of the Nominating Committee and may be removed by the Board at its discretion. As a Designated Committee, the

Athlete Representation Requirement on the Audit Committee shall be met by having 33.3% of the voting membership of the Audit Committee appointed by the President from the Eligible Athletes, fifty percent (50%) of which must be 10 Year Athletes and the remaining fifty percent (50%) of which may be either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes, which appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee. The term of office of the Audit Committee members shall be the same as their term as Congress Representatives, provided that no person shall serve more than ~~six (6)~~ **nine (9)** consecutive years as a member of the Audit Committee. The President shall designate a Chair from the appointed committee members. Each person appointed to the Audit Committee shall: 1. Not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of USA Hockey at any time during the past two years; and Annual Guide 95Bylaws 2. Be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements or become able to do so within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Audit Committee. Members of the Audit Committee should understand generally accepted accounting principles; have experience preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements of similar complexity to those of; and understand internal controls, procedures for financial reporting, and audit committee functions. Compliance with the foregoing requirements shall be determined by the Board of Directors in its business judgment.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Correct the maximum term of office.

Submitter: Paul Day on behalf of Finance and Investment Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Finance			
Legal			
Board			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

~~YES~~ **NO (circle one)**

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Paul Day**

**AFFILIATION: Finance Committee**

**EMAIL: pmdktd@comcast.net**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date

submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS  
MEETING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Finance Committee #4

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** CODE OF CONDUCT

**REGULATION (Heading):** Specifically, all Administrators of USA Hockey Programs

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:** Additions to the code of conduct for Administrators

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / page 23**

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)

[No Current wording]

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11)  
(as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

*New provisions to be inserted into Code of Conduct after section applying to all Administrators of USA Hockey Programs:*

**Specifically, all persons responsible for financial matters in or for USA Hockey Programs, at the national, district, affiliate, or local program level must display and adhere to:**

- ***Financial Integrity:*** The program must be operated pursuant to stringent administrative and financial accounting procedures and policies.
- ***Fiduciary Responsibility:*** Program leadership has a responsibility to operate the program towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies.
- ***Financial Oversight:*** All programs must maintain stringent financial accounting procedures that are overseen by the program's board and/or an external auditor.

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** Update Administrators Code of Conduct to reflect Fiscal Policy practice of local members.

Submitter: Paul Day on behalf of Finance Committee

*Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):*

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Finance and Administration			
Legal			
Youth Council			
Girls Council			
Affiliate Presidents			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**   **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: Paul Day**

**AFFILIATION: Finance Committee**

**EMAIL: pmdktd@comcast.net**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson:

**USA HOCKEY, INC.**  
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING: USA HOCKEY CONGRESS MEETING**  
**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**PROPOSAL NUMBER:** 2025 AM – Finance Committee #5

**NAME OF PUBLICATION:** ANNUAL GUIDE

**MAIN HEADING:** Affiliate Agreement

**REGULATION (Heading):**

**BY-LAW (Heading):**

**Section:**

**Reference (sub-section):**

**Paragraph / Page no(s):**149 - 154,

**CURRENT WORDING:** (please type in Tahoma/Pitch 11)

**E. Financial Reports Due and Assessments**

Affiliate shall provide to the Executive Director of USA Hockey an annual financial report of operations, and all dues and assessments by Affiliate shall be reasonable in relation to the programs it offers to its members, as determined by the USA Hockey Board of Directors.

**F. Publication of Constitution and Bylaws**

Affiliate shall annually distribute to its members, or make readily available, copies of its constitution, bylaws and other governing documents, and all amendments thereto. Copies shall also be available upon request.

\*\*\*\*\*

**I. 501(c)(3) Status**

Affiliate shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USA Hockey in the event that USA Hockey and Affiliate deem it advisable for Affiliate to be included in a group exemption letter.

**SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:** (please type in Tahoma / Pitch 11) (as it should appear with new wording-**bold**, Deletions-~~strikethrough~~)

**E. ~~Financial Reports Due and Assessments~~ Obligations and Reporting**

**(i) 501(c)(3) Status**

**Affiliate shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USA Hockey in the event that USA Hockey and Affiliate deem it advisable for Affiliate to be included in a group exemption letter.**

**Failure to maintain compliance under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code can result in suspension of the Affiliate Agreement and/or eligibility for USA Hockey Block Grant program.**

**(ii) Reports Due and Assessments**

Affiliate shall provide to the Executive Director of USA Hockey **and to the Assistant Executive Director of Finance of USA Hockey** an annual financial report of operations, and all dues and assessments by Affiliate shall be reasonable in relation to the programs it offers to its members, as determined by the USA Hockey Board of Directors.

**F. Publication of Constitution/Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws/Minutes**

Affiliate shall annually distribute to its members, or make readily available, copies of its **articles of incorporation**, bylaws and other governing documents, and all amendments thereto. Copies shall also be available upon request. **Affiliate shall also publish minutes of all annual meetings and board of director meetings on its website reasonably promptly after such meetings.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**~~I. 501(c)(3) Status~~**

~~Affiliate shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USA Hockey in the event that USA Hockey and Affiliate deem it advisable for Affiliate to be included in a group exemption letter.~~

**I. Affiliate Site Review Cooperation**

**Affiliate shall cooperate with site reviews and/or audits, in a schedule and format as are directed by USA Hockey, including making all documentation available in a timely fashion to the persons conducting the site review, being present for the site review meeting either in person or via video conference (in USA Hockey's discretion), providing any requested certifications as are necessary for the site review, responding to the site review report within thirty (30) days from receipt of the report, and making any corrections or changes as are required in the site review report in a reasonably timely manner.**

**J. Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies**

**Affiliate shall have, apply and enforce a Conflict of Interest Policy and a Whistleblower Policy in a form consistent with such policies adopted by USA Hockey.**

***[RENUMBER PARAGRAPHS BELOW]***

**INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:** To include more stringent reporting and financial compliance by Affiliates, timely publication of meeting minutes, cooperation with site reviews and adoption policies.

Submitter: Paul Day on behalf of the Finance Committee

Proposal directed also to (Board, Council, Committee, Section):

List Council, Committee or Sections Proposal is Directed to	Recommends Proposal	Does Not Recommend Proposal	Recommends an Amendment
Finance and Administration			
Legal			
Affiliate Presidents			
Board of Directors			

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Do you anticipate this proposal to have any impact on USA Hockey’s budget?

**YES**   **NO**   (circle one)

If yes, please articulate what you foresee that impact to be (e.g., implementation costs, ongoing operational costs, etc.) in the space below.

**AUTHOR: AUTHOR: Paul Day**  
**AFFILIATION: Finance Committee**  
**EMAIL: pmdktd@comcast.net**

Date Submitted/sent to Affiliate (Dist Org): \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
submitted/sent to respective Council/Committee chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please type or print all information. <i>(Please use another sheet if the current or proposed language does not fit in the space provided on the form)</i></li> <li>• When typing the “Specific Wording of Proposal,” bold new wording and strike through deletions.</li> <li>• Receipt of submission to the USA Hockey must be <b>on or before April 1, 2025.</b></li> <li>• E-mail to: <a href="mailto:emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org">emily.mcquiere@usahockey.org</a> and <a href="mailto:cjorgensen@usahockey.org">cjorgensen@usahockey.org</a></li> <li>• Submit one copy to the respective Affiliate or District Organization/District Director(s) and a copy to the Chairperson of the appropriate Council, Committee or Sections. The Affiliate may submit any comments to the USA Hockey National Office.</li> <li>• Use one form per proposal. Please reproduce this form as needed.</li> <li>• You will receive confirmation from the Executive Director’s office of receipt of the submitted agenda item/proposal(s). The deadline for receipt of submission will be strictly enforced in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaws.</li> </ul>

**NAME OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SECTION SUBMITTED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by Council/Committee/Section (comment/recommendation)**

**SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Director(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review by District Director(s) (comment/recommendation):**