

Mid American Hockey Association
Rules and Regulations
Effective April 23, 2026

I. MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION (Local Associations)

A hockey organization seeking to become an authorized Local Association (as defined in Article III, §4 of the corporation's Amended Bylaws) shall submit its application to the Membership Committee of the Mid American Hockey Association ("Mid Am"). An applicant seeking to become a Local Association must have at least eight (8) paid USA Hockey participants (Players and Coaches) except Disabled Associations in its organization and, if approved, will be authorized on a nonexclusive basis under Mid Am to register certain types of teams based upon the official USA Hockey ice hockey player and team classifications and the Association Definition in these rules. The Mid Am Membership Committee shall make a recommendation to the Mid Am Board of directors (hereinafter the "Board") regarding whether to approve or deny any organization's application. The Board shall make the final determination.

A. Application

The Application for Membership will include a list of all required information and documentation needed to complete the application. This list will include, but not be limited to, a copy of the applicable state government approved Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, the names and contact information for Applicant's Board of Directors, Officers, and owners, a description of for profit or not for profit status, a copy of the Internal Revenue Service 501-(c)3 determination letter (if applicable), an operation plan detailing such items as geographic area, developmental growth strategy, initial number of participant members / teams expected at startup, ice facility plans and agreements, list of current Local Associations in the area and copies of written notice to those Local Associations in the Applicant's geographic area disclosing the Applicant's intent to submit an application to Mid Am.

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B. Association Category Definition

All Mid Am Local Associations will be defined and approved as one or more of the following categories. Once a Local Association has been approved for a category by the Mid Am Competition Committee, the Local Association will remain in this category unless they petition the committee for a change of their category or Mid Am removes their membership from being in good standing. The petition to change a Local Association's status for the upcoming season would have to be filed with the Mid Am president on or before December 31.

1. **Youth Tier I** – Limited to registering the following team Type, Classification and Categories: Youth Tier I 13 Only, 14U, 15 Only, 16U, and 18U; Girls Tier I 14U,16U, and 19U teams; and USA Hockey Approved National Development League teams. **Only Associations in this Category may publicly promote their teams as Tier I teams (AAA).**
2. **Youth Tier II, Travel and House/Recreational** – Limited to registering the following team Type, Classification, and Categories: Youth and Girls Tier II teams, Youth and Girls Travel teams, Youth and Girls House Recreational teams, Youth and Girls High School teams.
3. **Youth High School** – Limited to registering the following team Type, Classification, and Categories: Youth and Girls High School teams, and in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia only, Youth House/Recreational 14u teams.
4. **Youth House/Recreational Only** – Limited to registering the following team Type, Classification, and Categories: Youth and Girls House/Recreational. These team can only play games within their Association.
5. **Adult** – Limited to registering the following team Type, Classification, and Categories: Adult and Adult Women's teams.
6. **Disabled** – Limited to registering the following team Type, Classification, and Categories: Adult Sled, Youth Sled, Special, Amputee/Standing, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Visually Impaired, and Warrior teams.

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C. Term of Local Association Authorization

A Local Association's authorization shall be for one year, commencing on September 1 (the first day of the season pursuant to Section III of USA Hockey's Rules and Regulations) in the year in which Mid Am approves the Local Association's application. The anniversary date shall be on September 1 after the commencement date. A Local Association's authorization shall always be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or termination, for failure to comply with Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and decisions of Mid Am (including its Committees) and USA Hockey. Conditioned upon receipt of the forms listed below, a Local Association's term of authorization shall be automatically renewed unless (i) the Local Association does not register any Members during the previous two (2) hockey seasons, or (ii) Mid Am notifies the Local Association, in writing and at least ten (10) days prior to the suspension or termination of its Membership and the basis for the action. The notice described in this subsection may be sent to the Local Association in care of any of its officers or directors, at its last known address, by any means selected by Mid Am.

D. Annual Forms

On an annual basis, before any team roster is approved, all Local Associations shall provide Mid Am with completed:

1. Annual Disclosure Form,
2. Association Membership Agreement,
3. USA Hockey Safe Sport Agreement,
4. USA Hockey Roster of Association Board Members, and
5. Any other form required by USA Hockey or Mid Am.

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E. Requirements

All participant members and teams shall be properly registered with USA Hockey prior to beginning any on ice practices, scrimmages or games. All Local Associations shall comply with all USA Hockey and Mid Am Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and policies before registering teams. Local Associations shall register all their participant members and teams with USA Hockey. Registered teams shall not play nonregistered teams except as approved by the District Registrar. Registered teams shall not play any team under suspension by Mid Am or USA Hockey. Registered teams shall adhere to current version of the USA Hockey Playing Rules. The President of Local Associations shall be responsible for all participant members' and member teams' compliance with USA Hockey and Mid Am Rules and Regulations and the Head Coach or most senior Coach of the team shall be held responsible for all activities of the team.

All Associations are required to have a board officer annually attend a Mid Am Association Education session prior to signing the Association Membership Agreement.

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F. Enforcement

Failure to comply with any membership requirements may result in suspension or termination from membership in USA Hockey and Mid Am as outlined and defined in the USA Hockey Bylaws and Rules and Regulations as set forth in the most current version of the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

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II. PLAYERS, COACHES AND TEAMS

A. Participant Registration

Members include players and coaches. All Members, managers and team volunteers shall register online with USA Hockey at www.usahockey.com and shall pay all appropriate USA Hockey and Mid Am membership fees for each member type. USA Hockey and Mid Am fees may be adjusted from time to time. Each USA Hockey / Mid Am Local Association shall designate a registration software administrator or registrar to make sure all Members are properly registered. The registration software administrator or registrar shall collect and process all registration confirmation numbers for players, coaches, managers and volunteers for their Local Association. The registration software administrator or registrar shall complete all required team rosters and reports and submit them to the District Registrar or designated Associate Registrar.

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B. Code Of Conduct

All Members shall adhere to the USA Hockey Participant Code of Conduct. Each player, coach and team manager shall adhere to the word and spirit of the USA Hockey Playing Rules and to the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations as printed in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

C. Coaches

All adults functioning as a Coach in any practice, scrimmage or game shall be registered with USA Hockey as a Coach. All coaches shall complete all required USA Hockey Coaching Education as outlined by the USA Hockey Annual Guide, along with any other governmentally required training, such as Concussion training. All coaches shall comply with the USA Hockey and Mid Am Screening Policy. All coaches shall comply with the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policy. All coaches shall abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Code of Ethics. All coaches shall be held responsible for the actions of their teams. Coaches are role models and leaders and shall conduct themselves as such. Coaches will place the development, safety and value of the player first in all decisions. They will approach hockey as a game emphasizing the qualities of good sportsmanship, and the characteristics that build our amateur athletes into responsible citizens. Specific questions regarding USA Hockey coaching program may be directed to the Mid-Am Coach-In-Chief as identified in the USA Hockey Annual Guide and on the Mid Am website.

D. Managers / Volunteers

Adults functioning as a Team Manager shall work cooperatively with the Local Association, the team coaching staff and the team players and their parents. Managers shall comply with the USA Hockey and Mid Am Screening Policy. Managers shall comply with the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policy. Managers, like coaches, are role models and leaders and shall conduct themselves as such. Managers shall comply with all USA Hockey and Mid Am Rules and Regulations.

E. Youth Player Age Classifications and “Play Up” Policy

1. Youth and Girls/Women Classifications: The following are the official youth and Girls/Women 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:

YOUTH

Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18) (18U) Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16) (16U)
Fifteen (15) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) Thirteen (13) and Fourteen (14)
(14U) Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) (12U) Nine (9) and Ten (10) (10U) Seven (7)
and Eight (8) (8U) Six (6) and Under (6U)

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GIRLS

Seventeen (17) through Nineteen (19) (19U) Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16) (16U) Thirteen (13) and Fourteen (14) (14U) Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) (12U) Nine (9) and Ten (10) (10U) Seven (7) and Eight (8) (8U) Six (6) and Under (6U)

2. “Play Up” Policy Generally: It is the policy of Mid Am for players to play within the appropriate USA Hockey-defined age classification set forth above. Mid Am recognizes that in some instances there are exceptional players who would be better served by playing in the next, higher age classification and there are situations in some Local Associations where a player(s) may need to play in the next higher age classification in order to form balanced teams with enough players. Except as provided in the following subsection, in such situations, Mid Am allows players to “play up” one year in playing age. For example, an eight-year-old may be allowed to “play up” on a 10U team., provided the following criteria are met:

- (a) The Local Association must have a well-defined, written policy that addresses procedures for identifying potential players, determining the player’s skill level, emotional maturity and physical abilities to be successful on the higher age classification team. The policy must also assess the impact the move may have on both the team he or she would play on in their appropriate birth-year age classification and the team he or she may be “playing up” on.
- (b) Only written requests submitted by a player’s parent or guardian may be considered by the Local Association’s governing Board.
- (c) Players must demonstrate the skill, physical ability and mental maturity required to “play up” on the next age classification team.
- (d) There should be an evaluation of the player’s skills and abilities completed by the Local Association’s Coaching Director and other impartial coaches in the Local Association. No more than 5 players on any team roster may be composed of players “playing up”.

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F. Rules Relating to Tier 1 Hockey Teams

1. USA Hockey-Recognized Age Levels and Minimum Roster Requirement: USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels and recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U, and 19U age levels. All teams at these classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).

2. USA Hockey Limitation on Tier I Teams: The number of Tier I teams in each age classification is limited by the number of players registered in Mid Am in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I Youth teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in Mid Am during the preceding season. In each age classification, the Tier I Girls teams shall not exceed twenty (20%) of the total players registered in that age classification in Mid Am during

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the preceding season. Based upon historical team and player registration data, the USA Hockey limitation summarized herein will not mandate a reduction of Youth teams for the 2017-2018 season. The complete USA rule (including the formula for calculating the maximum number of teams in each age classification) relating to the restrictions summarized herein can be found in USA Hockey Annual Guide, Rules and Regulations, Section III(D) and (E).

a. Publication of Maximum Number of Teams.

The District Registrar shall cause to be published on the Mid Am website the maximum number of Tier I teams permitted by the current USAH Annual Guide Rules and Regulations to be registered at each age classification in the District for the upcoming season no later than January 1 prior to such season. Programs must apply to the District to register Tier I teams by February 1 prior to such season. See F.3 below.

b. Grandfather Rule.

If a program registered a Tier I team at the age classification in question in the previous season, it will be permitted to register a Tier I team at this age classification in the upcoming season, even if this results in more teams than allowed by the USAH Rules and Regulations.

c. Process if there are Too Many Teams.

If after the application of the Grandfather Rule there are no more open slots at the age classification in question, no additional teams will be allowed to register. If after the application of the Grandfather Rule there is still an open slot or slots at the age classification in question, and there are more programs that wish to register a Tier I team in an age classification than are allowed by the USA Hockey Annual Guide Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria, then the following process shall be used to determine which program or programs shall be allowed to register a team at Tier I at that age classification to fill the open slot(s).

d. Evaluation Process and Standards.

The Competition Committee shall evaluate the applying programs and teams with respect to their entire Tier I program on their overall success at the district and national level, compliance with USAH Rules and Regulations, continuity and completeness.

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The Committee shall use the following standards and data to make such evaluation:

- 1) Historical and current compliance of a program's Tier I teams with USAH Tier I Standards and Criteria as set forth in the current USAH Annual Guide Rules and Regulations.
 - 2) The total number of a program's Tier I teams in the last 3 seasons.
 - 3) The total number of a program's Tier I teams advancing to the USAH National Tournament in the last 3 seasons.
 - 4) The percentage of a program's Tier I teams that applied to participate in the District Tournament in the last 3 seasons.
 - 5) The percentage of a program's Tier I teams' players in the previous season that were underage, e.g. a 16-year-old player on a 19U team or a 14-year-old player on a 16U team.
 - 6) The percentage of a program's players from out-of-district in the previous season.
 - 7) If, in the previous season, a program had a successful team at a younger age classification that has at least 60% of its players moving up to an age classification that has too many teams, then additional consideration will be given to that team.
- e. Recommendation and Decision.

The Competition Committee shall make a written recommendation by March 1 to the Mid Am Board as to which programs and teams shall be permitted to register a Tier I team in the age classification in question. The Mid Am Board shall make its decision by March 15.

3. Competition Committee and Application Process: The Mid Am Board shall create a Competition Committee, consisting of a Chairperson and an odd number of committee members. The Competition Committee shall:

- (a) establish Mid Am's prescribed form application for Local Associations seeking to roster one (1) or more Tier I teams;
- (b) establish the criteria to be evaluated when considering such applications;
- (c) evaluate the applications the committee receives from Local Associations; and
- (d) make a final determination regarding whether to approve or deny the applications received.

For the 2017-2018 season, Applications to roster any Tier I teams shall be due July 1, 2017. No new Tier I teams will be approved for the 2017 – 2018 season. Any Tier I team for the 2016-2017 season upon completion of the application documentation will be "grand-fathered" for the 2017-2018 season.

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Applications to roster one (1) or more Tier I team(s) for the following season (2018- 19) must be received by the Competition Committee on or before February 1, and applicants must timely respond to the committee's request for additional information. The Competition Committee shall issue its approval or denial of timely submitted applications on or before March 1. Local Associations may appeal the Competition Committee's denial of an application to the Mid Am Executive Committee so long as the Notice of Appeal is received by the Executive Committee within ten (10) days of the Competition Committee's denial.

4. Requirements of Applicant: Local Associations applying to roster one (1) or more Tier I team(s) must:

- (a) comply with all of the rules in this section and with all USA Hockey requirements set forth in the Annual Guide;
- (b) commit to competing in the Mid Am District Championships;
- (c) retain coaches with appropriate coaching education levels;
- (d) structure on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group;
- (e) demonstrate that the proposed Tier I team(s) are likely to include players possessing the highest skill levels such that the proposed teams will be able to compete at the highest level of Youth/Girl's hockey within, and outside of, Mid Am.

Mid Am recommends that Local Associations submitting applications under this section should roster two (2) or more teams and commit to establishing continuity, making an effort to field Tier I teams at multiple age classifications annually. Should an applicant seek to roster a single Tier I team, the applicant must establish that exceptional circumstances exist and provide its plan for expanding its number of Tier I teams in the future.

5. Tryouts: Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. **A Tier I Association may not hold any tryouts for any teams (Tier I, Tier II, or House Recreation) in their Association before time outlined below.** No Youth or Girls team may recruit or solicit players or offer 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 the Youth or Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II must be completed). For example, if the Youth National Championship ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts for Youth teams can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. If the Girls National Championships end at 4 pm on Tuesday, tryouts for Girls teams can begin after 4 pm on Thursday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, Local

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Association, and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by Mid Am.

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6. Eligibility for National Tournament Play: In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the Local Association must have been in existence and approved by Mid Am for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years. For Tier I District tournament, the top six (6) ranked District teams pursuant to MHR will be entered into the District Tournament, the winner of which commits to participate in National Tournament Play.

7. Minimum Number of National Bound Teams: Any Local Association rostering Tier I teams must have at least two (2) national tournament-bound teams from either the Tier I or Tier II categories.

8. Limitation on Out of Affiliate Players: All Mid Am Tier I teams are limited to four (4) players who do not reside within the geographical boundaries and immediate border areas of the Mid American Affiliate. A player is considered to reside within Mid Am if either of the following criteria are met: (a) his or her permanent residence or the permanent residence of his or her parent or legal guardian, if a minor, is within the geographical boundaries of the Mid American Affiliate or immediate border area; or (b) he or she attends school and receives a report card from a school that is located within the geographical boundaries of the Mid American Affiliate.

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III. OFFICIALS

C. On-Ice Officials

Only duly registered officials holding USA Hockey referee cards and displaying the USA Referee crest shall be authorized to serve as referees or linesmen in any or all hockey games played within Mid Am. On ice officials shall complete all USA Hockey requirements for recognition as and On Ice Official, including payment of applicable fees, attendance at required educational seminars, successful completion of applicable open-book and closed-book examinations and successful completion of applicable skating tests. All on-ice officials shall comply with the USA Hockey and Mid Am Screening Policy. All on-ice officials shall comply with the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policy. Officials are role models and leaders and shall conduct themselves as such. Specific questions regarding USA Hockey officiating program may be directed to the Mid-Am Referee-In-Chief as identified in the USA Hockey Annual Guide and on the Mid Am website.

B. Off-Ice Officials

Local Associations shall designate and train off-ice officials to aid in the smooth operation of all games. Off-ice officials include, timekeepers, score keepers, penalty box attendants and other game administrators. Off-ice officials shall report to and follow all

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directions from the referee and other on-ice officials. Off-ice officials shall comport themselves as game officials and always remain impartial. They shall not engage in verbal or physical altercations with other officials, whether on-ice or off-ice, players or coaches. Off-ice officials are role models and leaders and shall conduct themselves as such.

IV STATE / DISTRICT / NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BOUND TEAMS

A. State and District Championships

Mid Am will conduct State and District Championships to select teams to represent the MidAmerican District at the USA Hockey National Championships as defined and outlined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

B. Tier I Teams

At the Tier I Category, Mid Am will only accept entry of six (6) teams in each age classification. If more than six (6) teams apply for a given age classification, preference will be given to the highest ranked six (6) teams of those that have applied as ranked on the www.myhockeyrankings.com web site rankings published closest to February 15, or other national hockey rankings web site, as determined by the Mid Am board and published on the Mid Am web site.

A Tier II team that competes in three or more AAA or Tier I Invitational Tournaments may, at the discretion of the Mid-Am Board, be re-categorized as Tier I.

Tier I teams shall follow all Rules and Regulations as outlined in the USA Annual Guide, IX. District Playoffs and National Championships.

C. Tier II Teams (Youth)

Teams registered as Tier II will be allowed to participate in the Tier II State (Youth) tournaments leading to Tier II National Championships. Mid Am recognizes Tier II hockey as “community based” hockey, meaning that teams registered as Tier II shall be composed of players from a maximum 60-mile geographical distance from the home address of the player (determined by the address filed on the family’s current Federal Income Tax Return), to the team’s “home ice” arena. Tier II teams cannot have billeted players.

The onus is on the rostering organization to identify all potential players and their home resident (determined by the address filed on the family’s current Federal Income Tax Return). The Mid Am Board shall have discretion in determining if a team appropriately fits the definition of Tier II and will address any appeals filed with the Mid Am President.

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Tier II playoffs will be seeded using the rankings on the www.myhockeyrankings.com website published closest to February 15. The Board will determine the format, which may include one or more play-in games.

Tier II teams shall follow all Rules and Regulations as outlined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, Section IX. District Playoffs and National Championships, except the USA Hockey tryout rule regarding when they can start their teams' tryouts. **All Mid Am Tier II teams may not start their team's tryout until 9 days after the conclusion of the Youth National Championships (date posted on Mid Am Website).**

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D. Tier I and Tier II Team Rostering and Player Transfer / Release

Teams must follow appropriate "drop and add" procedures to make approved roster changes prior to January 1 of the current playing season.

USA Hockey Rules and Regulations do not allow a player to be on more than one team advancing toward a National Championship (Tier I or Tier II teams) simultaneously. Players requesting release from a Tier I or Tier II team shall make written request to be released from their team. The Local Association that the team is affiliated with shall issue such release and remove the player from the team's roster within seven (7) days of the request. Once a release is issued, the player requesting release will be free to join any other Tier I or Tier II team. The existence of an outstanding financial obligation is not grounds to withhold a requested release. All Local Associations have sole responsibility for collecting any agreed upon tuition or fees from their member players. Mid Am encourages all Local Associations and their teams to adopt and enforce a strict "no pay – no play" policy. Mid Am does not enforce financial contracts entered into between players and their parents or guardians and Local Associations and their teams.

E. Rules Relating to Tier II Girls Teams

1. For any of its Tier II Girls Teams ("Team" or "Teams") to be eligible for the District Tournament, associations must field at least two Girls Teams.

- a) The Team in the older age classification needs to be established as a recognized Tier II Girls Team or seeking recognition as a Tier II Girls Team for the current season.
- b) Any Team in a younger age classification that is not a recognized Tier II Girls Team (i.e., house/rec) must have played at least 15 USA Hockey sanctioned games in the previous season.
- c) There is a 1-year probation period before new associations can enter Tier II Girls Teams into the District Tournament.

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2. For any of its Teams to be eligible for the District Tournament,
 - a. a) at least 5 players on the Team roster must have been on the roster of a Tier II Girls Team registered with the host association in the previous season, and
 - b. b) At least 4 of those players must participate in at least 50% of the Team's USA Hockey sanctioned games in the regular season.

3. Every Team is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of its roster and that its players comply with all USA Hockey and MidAm eligibility requirements for all games played.
 - a) A Team that uses an ineligible player in a game shall forfeit that game.
 - b) A Team that forfeits more than one game in a season due to the use of any ineligible player shall be automatically ineligible for the District Tournament.

4. Each Team must designate 1 suitable facility as its home rink, where the Team must play greater than 50% of its total home games. This designation must be made before September 1 of the season by emailing to the Mid Am District Administrator at administrator@midamhockey.com.
 - a) There shall be a limit of one Tier II Girls Team designating a specific facility as its home rink. Priority shall be given to the Team that used the facility in the previous season.
 - b) A Team may use a secondary facility to reach the 50% requirement for home games if the alternate facility is located within 25 driving miles of the Team's designated home rink and is not the home rink of another Tier II Girls Team.
 - c) To be eligible to play on a Tier II Girls Team, a player's legal residence must be within 75 driving miles of the designated home rink of the Team. The driving distance is calculated by entering the legal address (as defined in Rule IV. C.) of the player and the street address of the home rink into any commercially used GPS/mapping application and applying the shortest driving route.

(Note 1) Regarding Tier II Girls – Waiver Conditions If a player falls within any of the following situations, she may apply for a waiver of the above rule G.

1. The player has no Tier II Girls Team within her distance limit.
2. The player was cut from the only Tier II Girls Team within her distance limit.
3. The player provides proof of a legal change of residence.
4. The player provides proof of current enrollment at a college campus or boarding school.
5. The player is placed under legal guardianship or into foster care by a court of competent jurisdiction at a new residence that is within her distance limit of the home rink of a Tier II Girls Team.

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(Note 2) If a player received a waiver in the previous season for a Girls' Tier 2 team for any of the reasons listed above (1–5), they do not need to request a new waiver, provided they confirm that none of the circumstances have changed since the original waiver was granted.

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F. State / District Championships Entry and Qualifications

All teams wishing to enter the Tier II State or Tier I District Championships shall complete the Mid Am State / District Championships Declaration form and return it with the appropriate fee / deposit to the State / District Championship Director as identified on the Mid Am web site by October 31. Failure to submit the form and the appropriate fee will in a timely fashion may exclude the team from State / District Championships for that season.

G. State / District Championship Requirements

All teams that enter the State / District Championship play-downs agree to advance to the National Championships should they win their respective State or District Championship. Any team failing to comply with this requirement will face serious consequences which may include:

1. The Local Association registering the offending team will be prohibited from hosting any USA Hockey sanctioned Invitational Tournament for one (1) year.
2. The Local Association registering the offending team will pay a fine of \$1000.00.
3. Mid Am may hold a Disciplinary Hearing and may assess additional sanctions, including suspensions from Mid Am membership for a period of one (1) year for the Local Association registering the offending team and the coaching staff associated with the team.

G. State / District Championship Operation, Sites and Dates

The Mid Am Board may appoint a State / District Championship Director to work with the Mid Am Board in coordination of entry, scheduling and operation of the Mid Am State / District Championships.

1. State and District Championship sites will be determined by the Mid Am Board and published on the Mid Am web site. The Mid Am Board will accept bids from Local Associations interested in hosting a State or District Championship. State and District Championship bids are due by June 1 for State and District Championships scheduled for the upcoming season.
2. State and District Championship dates of competition will be determined by the Mid Am Board and published on the Mid Am web site. Preference will be given to dates in late February or early March of the playing season.

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3. The Mid Am President will designate a Tournament Director at each State and District Championship site, who shall have full control to run the tournament in accordance with the rules in the USA Hockey Annual Guide Rules and Regulations as outlined in IX. District Playoffs and National Championships.
4. The Referee-In-Chief shall appoint or approve all on-ice officials for State and District Championship games.

H. Championship Game Formats

The Mid Am State and District Championships will follow a predefined format based on the number of teams that enter each age classification. A detailed definition of the State and District Championship formats is found in Appendix A of these Rules and Regulations.

V. HOCKEY SEASON

Mid Am recognizes separate and distinct playing seasons, the Regular (Fall/Winter) Season which begins on September 1st and concludes on March 31st except for teams still competing in games leading to a USA Hockey National Championship, and the Spring/Summer Season which begins on April 1st and ends on August 31st to accommodate teams and leagues that desire to extend the playing season. Only one USA Hockey and Mid Am individual participant membership is required each year. Members who register with USA Hockey and Mid Am when online registration opens for the upcoming season (typically April 1st) may participate during the remainder of the Spring/Summer Season in addition to the Regular Season and the following Spring Summer Season.

VI. FINANCES, BUDGET AND EXPENSE

A. Income

All funds collected by Mid Am, including, but not limited to, participant registration fees, tournament sanction fees, State / District Championship entry fees and camp tryout and registration fees and other monies collected will be accounted for by the Treasurer and deposited to the general treasury account(s) (checking, money market, investment).

B. Expenses

Mid Am will reimburse reasonable expenses, incurred in the course of transacting Mid Am business by the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors and any others who are approved by the President, provided they are submitted in the approved manner.

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C. Budget and Financial Reporting

The Mid Am Board shall prepare Annual Financial Reports to be presented to the general membership at the Mid Am Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall prepare periodic financial reports for the Board. The Board shall submit a proposed budget for approval each year at the Mid Am Annual Membership meeting. The Board shall review and amend as necessary their policies regarding expenses and reimbursement to remain in compliance with USA Hockey financial expense and reimbursement policies and guidelines. All expense items expected to be in excess of \$1000 shall be included in an approved budget. The Board may amend the budget as appropriate at meetings where a quorum of eligible voting members is present. The Board shall provide for an annual independent audit of the Mid Am financial records and publish the audit findings report. All long-term contracts for professional or other services (legal, accounting, ice contracts, etc.) shall be approved by the Executive Board and signed by the President. The Board shall post budgets, financial reports and federal and state tax returns to the Mid Am web site as appropriate.

D. Fiscal Policies

Mid Am fiscal policies shall be in compliance with USA Hockey fiscal policies and reduced to writing, and upon request to the Mid Am Treasurer are available for any members review.

VII. USA HOCKEY

Mid Am will maintain an Affiliate Agreement with USA Hockey and comply with all USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Policies. Mid Am shall remain committed to being a “leader” among all USA Hockey affiliated associations when it comes to adopting and endorsing USA Hockey policies and procedures, such as Volunteer Screening, ADM and Safe Sport.

VIII. SCREENING / SAFE SPORT

Mid Am wants all Members to enjoy a safe environment for participation in the sport of ice hockey and as such requires all adult coaches, officials, employees and volunteers comply with the USA Hockey and Mid Am Screening Policy and USA Hockey Safe Sport Program.

A. Screening

Mid Am, in compliance with USA Hockey policy, requires all adult coaches, officials, employees and volunteers who routinely have access to children (anyone under the age of majority) to comply with the Mid Am Screening Policy which requires screening by the Mid Am Screening vendor through www.midamhockeyscreen.com every two (2) years. Anyone who fails or refuses to consent to be screened is not eligible to be associated with

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Local Associations. Screening is required prior to an adult having access to youth participants. Screening may be completed individually by the person being screened only. The Mid Am screening web site will contain forms, contact person(s) and complete policy statement regarding the screening process. There is a vendor fee paid by credit card by the applicant at the time of the screening and this fee may change periodically.

B. Safe Sport

Mid Am, in compliance with USA Hockey policy, requires all adult coaches, officials, employees and volunteers to complete the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program. Further, Mid Am encourages parents to review and complete the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program found on the USA Hockey website. Once a coach or volunteer has registered with USA Hockey, he/she may complete the Safe Sport Program training. Upon successful completion, a certificate will be issued. Refresher courses will be made available from time to time.

Locker Room Monitor is required any time players are in a locker room (games or practices)

1. All locker room monitors must be listed on the team's official roster
 - (a) The Head Coach listed on the team's roster is the default locker room monitor unless otherwise documented
 - (b) If an Assistant Coach or Volunteer is the locker room monitor, the locker room monitor's name must be circled (noted) on the score sheet
2. Co-ed teams must have a gender appropriate locker room monitor for each locker room
3. If a single player is present, the locker room should be monitored by at least 2 adults until additional players arrive
4. A Locker Room Monitor must be documented (circled if possible) on all score sheets

IX. RECORDS RETENTION

This Policy identifies the record retention periods and methods of storage for various Mid American (Mid Am) District documents. The Mid Am Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring the appropriate documents are maintained in a safe and secure manner for the periods noted below. Where possible, records will be stored electronically in systems designated by Mid Am's Board of Directors. When electronic storage is not available or impractical, processes for

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appropriate storage of paper records will be determined by the Mid Am Board of Directors. Records to be maintained include;

A. Governance Documents (Maintain permanently)

1. Articles of Incorporation
2. By Laws
3. Rules and Regulations
4. IRS Determination Letter

B. Financial Documents (Maintain seven years)

1. Audit Reports
2. Bank Statements
3. Tax Returns
4. Year End Financial Statements
5. General Ledger
6. Invoices paid (Deposit support)
7. 1099's issued

C. Other Documents (Maintain as necessary with minimum of three years)

1. Contracts
2. Insurance Policies
3. Meeting Minutes
4. Affiliate Agreement with USA Hockey
5. Legal Documents
6. Safe Sport Agreement

Mid Am intends to retain electronic records for as long as possible but reserves the right to not

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retain other records after seven years of their creation.

In the event litigation is reasonably anticipated, Mid Am will implement a legal hold and suspend any routine document destruction policies.

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X. SUSPENSIONS

A. The Mid Am President has the authority to summarily suspend any Local Association, Local Association representative, team, player, coach, association employee, manager, volunteer or official who violates any USA Hockey Rule or Regulation or Mid Am Rule or Regulation from USA Hockey participation pending a hearing by an appropriately appointed Hearing Committee.

B. All Local Associations, teams, players, coaches, association employees, managers, volunteers or officials suspended by Mid Am or USA Hockey shall remain suspended for the prescribed length of time or until such suspension is lifted by USA Hockey or a properly appointed disciplinary committee.

C. All players, coaches, managers, volunteers, teams, officials or persons under suspension by USA Hockey or any USA Hockey District or Affiliate shall be ineligible for participation and membership within Mid Am until such suspension is properly lifted.

XI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION, DISCIPLINE, ARBITRATION

A. Disputes and Appeals Any player, coach, manager, volunteer, Local Association or league within Mid Am may file a Notice of Dispute with the Mid Am President and Mid Am Secretary only after the disputed case, matter or protest has had a hearing and a determination has been reached or a hearing has been refused by the local governing body, such as the Local Association or league.

B. Notice of Dispute When a Notice of Dispute is filed with the Mid Am President and Mid Am Secretary a sum of \$250 shall be posted with the filing for each Notice of Dispute.

C. Dispute Resolution Process Upon receipt of a Notice of Dispute the Mid Am President will follow the dispute resolution process as outlined in Bylaw 10. Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

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D. Appeals All decisions of a Mid Am Hearing Committee may be appealed to the full Mid Am Board. All decisions of the Mid Am Board may be appealed to USA Hockey as described in Bylaw 10. Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

E. Financial Disputes Mid Am will not accept a Notice of Dispute related to financial disputes between players and their parents or guardians and Local Association and their teams. All Local Associations have sole responsibility for collecting any agreed upon tuition or fees from their member players. Mid Am encourages all Local Associations and their teams to adopt and enforce a strict “no pay – no play” policy. Mid Am does not enforce any financial contracts entered into between players and their parents or guardians and Local Associations and their teams.

XII. WEB SITE AND COMMUNICATION

A. Web Site

Mid Am designates its website www.midamhockey.com as its primary means of communication with its membership. Meeting notices, financial reports, tax returns and other documents and important information will be posted to the site. Information will be updated and changed periodically.

B. Email Communication The registration software administrator or registrar for each Local Association as identified in the USA Hockey membership database will be the official point of contact for all email communications from Mid Am. Mid Am will also collect email addresses of Local Association Presidents and include them in email communications as they are available.

C. Mid Am Annual Guide Mid Am will produce an Annual Guide for Local Association and publish it to the Mid Am web site. Mid Am will also attempt to distribute printed copies of the Annual Guide to readily available Local Association contacts.

XIII. AMENDMENTS

These Rules and Regulations may be amended by a majority vote of the Mid Am Board.

Approved and adopted by vote of the Mid Am Board on April 23, 2026

Previously adopted by vote of the Mid Am Board on November 20, 2025

Previously adopted by vote of the Mid Am Board on October 23, 2025

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