



The Hockey Path and Options

Youth Hockey: Age 4 - 18

- A, AA, AAA, High School/Prep School

Junior Hockey: Age 16-20

- United States Options:
 - Tier 3 – Leagues like NA3HL, USPHL
 - Player pays to play
 - Hockey: \$7,000 - \$15,000 plus travel
 - Billet: \$300-\$500/Month
 - Tier 2 – Leagues like NAHL
 - Player pays to play
 - Hockey: minimal to \$0
 - Billet: \$300-\$500/Month
 - Tier 1 – the USHL (the path to NCAA D1)
 - Player does not pay to play
- Canadian Junior Leagues
 - 10 Junior “A” Hockey Leagues, including the Canadian Junior Hockey League
 - Similar to Tier 3 and Tier 2 US Leagues
 - Have Limits on the number of non-Canadian players on a team
 - Major Junior Leagues, including leagues like the OHL, Quebec Major Junior, WHL, etc.
 - These entities pay you to play
 - You lose your NCAA and ACHA Eligibility
- To get to the NCAA Division 1 level, you should be at Tier 2 by 18 years old, and Tier 1/USHL by 19 years old. They only recruit from those two levels, and mostly only at the USHL and Canadian leagues that do not pay.





ACHA College Hockey – considered Jr. Varsity College Hockey

- No Athletic Scholarships
- “Pay-to-Play”
- Division 3: Approx. 100 Teams
 - High School – 70%
 - Juniors – 30%
- Division 2: Approx. 190 Teams:
 - High School – 30%
 - Juniors – 70%
- Division 1: Approx. 70 teams
 - High School – 10%
 - Juniors – 90%

NCAA College Hockey – considered Varsity College Hockey, and a path to Professional Hockey

- Division 3: Approx. 80 Teams
 - Mostly on East Coast and Midwest
 - No Athletic Scholarships
- Division 2: Approx. 6-10 Teams
 - Going Away
 - No National Championships
 - All on East Coast
- Division 1: Approx. 60 Teams
 - Athletic Scholarships
 - Professional Aspirations

**Key: Pick your school for your education and career first, and then the right hockey fit.
Remember, you are now a Student-Athlete, with Student coming first.**

