

Playing Rule Addendums and Clarifications

• Double Rostered Players:

We are aware that there may be some CUHL players double rostered on AAU "Tournament Teams", either locally or from out of town. As per the CUHL bylaws, this is not allowed.

CUHL players will also not be allowed to double roster on multiple CUHL teams (either within a member club or with different member clubs). One team per player. Players can move between teams within a club legally utilizing the Player Movement (3 up) rule during the regular season, however that rule does not apply during the playoffs. Players may not play on multiple teams during the playoffs, and must only play for their legally rostered team.

During the regular season, players will be permitted to act as a "SKATER" on one team, and a "GOALIE" on another team within their club at the discretion of the CUHL Board. This arrangement is meant to be temporary while a permanent solution is worked out, and should not be used as a long-term solution. The player may not be rostered on both teams, and can only play for their one officially rostered team during the playoffs. The limit for these exemptions will be December 31 of the current season.

If a player is found to be on multiple AAU rosters during the CUHL Regular Season, the offending club shall forfeit all games that the player played in, the club shall be ineligible for playoffs, and the offending player/club shall have to go before the CUHL R&E Committee. The player will be suspended from all CUHL games pending the ruling of the CUHL R&E Committee.

• CUHL Directive – Tier 1 and/or “AAA” Affiliated Teams

The Chicago United Hockey League has worked hard for almost a decade to support our member clubs and to stabilize an infrastructure that allows clubs, teams, and individual players to develop organically while playing community-based hockey. In response to - and in support of - our members, we have determined that a hard stance needs to be taken regarding the proliferation of 8U Tier 1 and/or “AAA” affiliated teams. While we respect the right of these clubs to exist and to operate how they see fit, CUHL clubs do not need to support this model and enable something outside of our belief system to expand. CUHL teams will not be permitted to play games against any 8U Tier 1 and/or “AAA” affiliated teams. This directive applies to scrimmages and other “non-sanctioned” games with or without officials present. It does not apply to tournament games, as CUHL teams may enter any tournament they’d like to compete in. Should a team be accused of undermining this directive, they will be subjected to review from the CUHL R&E and Competition Committees who have the right to recommend repercussions up to and including removal from the league. Teams in question will be automatically suspended from the CUHL season until an investigation can be conducted. If your club/team has questions about potential games, please reach out to our Competition Committee to discuss eligibility in advance.

• CUHL Standings Tie-Breaking Procedures

Wins	The team with the most wins gains the higher position. (whether in regulation, overtime or shootout).	⋮⋮
Losses	The team with the least losses gains the higher position.	⋮⋮
Head to Head Points	For games in head to head competition between the tied teams, the team with the larger points total gains the higher position.	⋮⋮
Goals Against	The team with the least goals against gains the higher position.	⋮⋮
Goal Differential	Goals against subtracted from goals scored, with positions being determined in the order of the greatest surplus.	⋮⋮
Goal Quotient	Goals scored divided by goals against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero.	⋮⋮
Goal Quotient 2	Goals scored divided by the sum of the goals scored and goals against, the positions being determined in the order of the greatest percentage.	⋮⋮
Penalties in Minutes	The team with the least penalty minutes gains the higher position.	⋮⋮

*MAXIMUM GOAL DIFFERENTIAL WILL BE +6 FOR ANY GAME

• Playoff Overtime and Standings Tie-Breakers

Playoff Rule - No Tied Games (NHL shootout rule shall apply) If regulation time ends with the score tied then the teams shall immediately go into a three-round shootout. If still tied after three rounds then the shootout continues in extra rounds until one team scores when their opponent doesn't. Home team chooses whether to shoot first or last. In the Championship Game Only teams shall play a 10 minute sudden-death overtime period (goalies do not switch ends) before going to the shootout.

If a tie in points occurs in the playoff standings, the following tie-breaking system shall be followed:

1. Head-to-Head Competition (two tied teams)
2. Total Points Accumulated in games involving three tied teams
3. More Regulation Time Wins
4. Fewer Regulation Time Losses

5. Fewer Total Goals Allowed in All Games
6. More Goals Scored in All Games (max. +5 differential per game)
7. Team with more shutouts
8. Team to Score First in Game Involving Tied Two Teams
9. Team to Score the Earliest in Games Involving Tied Three Teams

• **CUHL Player Movement (“3 Up”) Rule – Clarification**

Any team can “borrow” (from within their own club) up to three players for a game if they are short players with the following restrictions:

- The Player Movement Rule can only be used to fill a team to a MAXIMUM of 10 skaters and 1 goalie.
- Borrowed players must be rostered on a CUHL team within the organization
- Player movement can only be from a lower level team to an equal or higher level team.
- Player movement can never be used to drop players in level (Example: D2 to D3). If a team has special circumstances, a request must be made to the CUHL Board and approval but be granted in advance. Requests should be submitted to the CUHL at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled start time.
- If a team is short a goalie, only a GOALIE from a lower or equal level may be used, however a SKATER from any team may be utilized. Example, a non-goalie skater on a D1 team may play goalie for a D2 team. But the D1 Goalie may not play in D2.
- The CUHL Movement rule is not applicable in any playoff tournament play-in, round robin, consolation, or championship games; teams must play with their official roster only.
- When applying the Player Movement rule, the team manager must inform the opposing team’s manager of the use of the rule prior to the game, and CC President Jordan Mann (jordanmannskating@gmail.com).
- The team exercising the rule must clearly identify on GameSheet the players that are absent, and the players that are borrowed (as “Affiliate Players”).
- The Player Movement Rule may not be used to fill spots that are open due to league suspension or other R&E matters.

• **Two Import (“2 Player”) Rule and FAQ**

Two Import Rule – Modified May 2025

The Chicago United Hockey League (“CUHL”) has as a core objective to encourage and protect community-based Mite hockey, as well as to prevent recruiting. Accordingly, CUHL member Clubs (“Clubs”) must adhere to this Two Import Rule as follows:

1. Every player on each CUHL team's roster will be classified as one of two possible designations: "Home-Grown Player" or "Import Player"
2. Players entering the CUHL for the first time may join any club regardless of their playing history. The CUHL will not monitor where a player did skating lessons, Learn to Play Hockey, or their involvement in any mite program that was not part of a rostered CUHL team. These players will forever be known as "home grown" players for the first member club they choose to join.
3. If a player who has ever been rostered on a CUHL team opts to move to another CUHL member club for any reason, he/she will be viewed as an "import player" for the first CUHL season they are with the new club.
4. If a player has legally played for more than one CUHL club, they will be considered a "home grown" player for all of their prior clubs and can play for any of those clubs again in subsequent seasons. There is no limit to the number of clubs a player can play for, provided they are only playing for one club per season.
5. Each team sponsored by the Club (or any de facto affiliated organization or team as defined below) must submit a roster for approval by CUHL. Such rosters may include any number of "home grown" players who fit the criteria listed in (2) and/or (4) above.
6. In addition, each team sponsored by the Club may also roster up to two "Import" players as defined in (3) above.
7. For a player to be considered a "home grown" player at a new Member Club (first season for the club in the league or first season back into the league after an absence of one or more seasons), the player must not be considered a "home grown" player for any other current member club, meaning that the player may not have been rostered in the CUHL at any point prior to the current season.
8. In order to prevent circumvention of the Two Import Rule, if any of the member Club's teams, defined for purposes of this Rule to include any "independent" Mite (8U) team that is a feeder team to or from the Club's Mite (8U) teams or AAU registered team that shares a common facility and overlapping management or hockey staff (a "de facto affiliated organization or team") does not comply with this Two Player Rule, such Club shall be deemed to have violated this Rule.
9. If CUHL becomes aware that a Club or any de facto affiliated organization or team does not comply with this Two Player Rule, the Club's President shall be notified in writing (via e mail) that it is in violation of this Rule. Upon delivery of such notice that a Club directly or through a de facto affiliated organization or team, has violated this Two Player Rule, such Club shall be immediately expelled as a member Club, and none of its Team may compete in any CUHL league play.

Exemptions to add additional Import players or to field a travel team due to unique circumstances (such as a player's family moving) may be granted in the exercise of the sound discretion of CUHL's Two Player Committee. Requests for an exemption to add additional Import player(s) must be made in writing and delivered via e mail to the President of CUHL no later than August 20 prior to the start of the season in question. Under no circumstances will exemptions be considered after the request deadline.

Two Import Rule FAQ:

- 1) We had a player who began in our rink's Learn to Skate program and went to a different club for their first CUHL season. They are now coming back to our club. Are they "home grown"?
 - a. No. Non-rostered classes (LTS) are not considered part of a child's playing history. The player is a "home grown" player for their first CUHL club and would be an "import" for your program.
- 2) We have two players who played last season at a rink without any CUHL member clubs. They did that rink's Mite House League and are going to play in our program this year. Are they "home grown" for our club?
 - a. Yes. They have not been rostered in the CUHL Those players are "home grown" for your program.
- 3) My child played Minor Mites for a USA Hockey House Team. Our rink has a mite CUHL program that we would like to move into. We see the same coaches and directors running both programs. Would my child be a "home grown" player for this club?
 - a. Yes. Internal house league programs run by (or partnered with) CUHL clubs are an appropriate and common feeder. Since your child was never in the CUHL, you will be "home grown" for your first rostered club.
- 4) We have a player who played on our legacy club's USA Hockey NWHL House team two years ago. Last year, they moved to a different CUHL club for travel. They are coming back to our program for their final mite year. Is this player "home grown"?
 - a. No. Although players can be considered "home grown" for multiple clubs, this player has only been rostered with one CUHL club and would therefore be an import for your program. The CUHL has no jurisdiction over USA Hockey rosters and therefore cannot use that as a criteria for judging player history.
- 5) My child is going into her 3rd season of mites. We have played at two CUHL clubs already, but are moving from the Joliet area to the Evanston area. Can our child play at a new club again this year?
 - a. Yes, but your child is considered an "import" player for the new club. Be proactive and do your research – make sure that there are import spots available on your prospective club's teams. The CUHL does not limit the number of clubs your child can play for, as long as import rules are followed each time.
- 6) Our club has 5 CUHL teams, so we are allowed 10 "import" players. Can we put them all on one team?
 - a. No. Each individual team is allowed a maximum of two "import" players. The count is by team, not by club.
- 7) I am a coach and I am switching programs this year. Is my child considered "home grown" since I will be coaching at the new club?
 - a. No. Your child is an import for the new club. A parent coaching does not change the child's status. However, if the club feels it is appropriate, they may petition for an exemption by August 20.
- 8) I am a hockey director, and I have been contacted by a family who would like to join our program this year. This player is moving to our area and previously played at a different CUHL club last year. This player is considered "home grown" for us because they live in our town now, correct?

- a. No. Every new player with a CUHL playing history is considered an “import”. If you are already at your two player limit, you will need to let the family know that you have no spots, or file for an exemption with the league president by August 20.
- 9) It is August 25th and we had a player show up for tryouts out of the blue. We would like to select her for our #1 team. However, she is an “import” and we already have two on that team. Is it too late to ask for an exemption?
 - a. Yes. The responsibility for following the rules and monitoring “import” players is on the club. Players rarely show up “out of the blue”, and when they do it is the program’s job to communicate our league rules.
- 10) This all seems all little much. My child is 7 and wants to play hockey. Why does the CUHL have this rule?
 - a. The Two Import rule exists primarily to limit the recruiting of young players and to promote community-based hockey. The spirit of the rule is not intended to limit player choices, but to keep clubs accountable regarding internal development and to keep the playing field level for all area programs at 8U.

- **League Stance on U10 Girls Teams**

The Chicago United Hockey League supports the growth of girl’s hockey. We will permit teams to have NO MORE THAN FOUR players who are in the U10 age category to participate on all-girls teams within the CUHL. The CUHL reserves the right to remove players whose skill level is beyond the division the girl’s team is participating in. No girl who is of U10 age may participate on CUHL member co-ed teams.

- **CUHL Rules & Ethics Policy**

Chicago United Hockey league Rules & Ethics Committee

The Rules & Ethics Committee shall be selected pursuant to the By-Laws of CUHL.

CUHL has adopted the USA Hockey’s Players code of conduct, Parents Code of Conduct and Coaches Code of Conduct. All matters pertaining to violations of the (a) the foregoing, (b) CUHL’s By-Laws or (c) CUHL’s Playing Rules, arising in connection with CUHL games or activities (either on or off the ice) by any CUHL member organization, player, coach, parent or other individual affiliated with a CUHL member organization, will be referred to CUHL’s Rules & Ethics Committee for hearing and determination of any discipline. The range of discipline the Rules & Ethics Committee may impose upon such member organization, player, coach or other individual affiliated with a CUHL member organization includes fines (only as provided for in CUHL’s By-Laws), probation, suspension or a recommendation to the CUHL Board of Directors that such member organization be expelled from CUHL.

All Decisions of this Rules & Ethics Committee are final. No appeals will be considered other than those that are legally provided under the laws of the State of Illinois or Rules and Bylaws of AAU.

- **Neck Guards Required – Beginning 2024-25 Season**

Please be advised that all players will be required to wear Neck Laceration Protectors ("Neck Guards") for all games beginning with the 2024-25 CUHL season. Officials will be instructed to enforce this rule, and prohibit any players without proper equipment from participating.