



Two Import Rule – Modified 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.