

Siouxland Youth Hockey Association (SYHA)

Double Rostering & Player Movement Policy



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to address a travel team's shortage of skaters and/or goalies while ensuring equitable player development, competitive integrity, and full compliance with USA Hockey and affiliate association rules. Double rostering supports team formation to benefit the organization as a whole.

By establishing firm deadlines, clear thresholds, required approvals, a preference for pulling up players, and triple rostering restrictions, this policy ensures rostering and movement serve legitimate needs (emergencies and fatigue management) rather than competitive exploitation. It upholds the core values of fairness and sportsmanship.

Identification of Double Rostered Players

- Double-rostered players need to have a similar level of skill (e.g., if Gold has 10 skaters, the top-rated Green players get double-rostered for Gold and the top Peewee players get double-rostered for Bantam Green. Bottom Gold players double-rostered with green).
- Second year Bantams who are freshmen in high school, must attend Metro evaluations, in addition to Bantam evaluations, to be considered for double rostering on Metros.
- The Director of Hockey Operations (DOHO), in consultation with the head coaches of all affected teams, will identify and finalize potential double/triple roster players by October 31.
- The DOHO will ensure agreement with parents of players identified for double rostering.
- The DOHO will maintain a master spreadsheet that includes each double- or triple-rostered player's name, birth year, primary team, secondary/tertiary teams, position (skater or goalie), and the rationale for inclusion. This document will be available to the BOD upon request.
- Any changes will be communicated no later than December 20 to allow processing before the December 31 roster freeze.



Player Movement

Overview

- Playing a double rostered player is limited to genuine need (e.g., injury, illness, or unavoidable absences) and is prohibited without prior DOHO approval for each tournament and set of friendly games.
- The DOHO will prioritize pulling up players (from lower classifications/levels/teams) whenever possible and feasible, based on availability, player development needs, and roster balance. Pulling down players (from higher classifications or teams) will only be approved when no suitable pull-up option exists, and the need is documented as essential (e.g., the lower team is at a tournament that weekend).
- The DOHO has sole discretion to approve or deny all player movement requests, prioritizing player development, roster balance, the preference for pulling up players (as outlined above), and overall competitive fairness.
- Anything not addressed in policy will be determined with the DOHO and the player's head coach, with final approval from the BOD.

Requests for Moves

- If a team has at least 10 skaters and 1 goalie (11 total healthy players available to dress), no player movement is permitted.
- If the team is below this threshold, in order to take any double rostered players, the head coach must notify the DOHO at least 48 hours prior to the first game and receive DOHO approval.
- Documented emergency requests (e.g. injury or illness) will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- For tournaments that may include more than 4 games, a head coach may submit a written request to the DOHO to call up or down additional players, not to exceed 11 skaters and 1 goalie.

Documentation

- All approved tournament roster adjustments must be documented, including the rationale, specific players/goalies added, and how the increase addresses freshness/fatigue concerns. This document will be available to the BOD upon request.

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Additional Restrictions

- Goalies, never skaters, may be triple rostered and only when justified.
- Girls may be multi-rostered in compliance with USA Hockey guidelines.
- Per USA Hockey rules, an older division's player may not play down a level (e.g. a bantam-age player may not play with peewee-age players under any circumstances), therefore will not be double rostered at a lower division.

Communication and Acknowledgment

- This policy will be distributed to all head coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers at the start of the season.
- Parents of double- or triple-rostered players will receive written notification of their child's status and the applicable movement rules.

Enforcement and Violations

Violations of this policy will be reviewed by the DOHO and may result in a written warning and/or referral to the SYHA BOD for potential disciplinary action.

Effective May 2026