

CSDHL PROSPECTS FAQ (6/9/25)

****Dates and other information are subject to change****

1. Does a club need Major/Minor teams to compete in the Prospects Division?

No.

2. How does a club enter a team into the Prospects Division? Send an email to CSDHLprospects@gmail.com with club name, contact name, phone, emails to send application, and levels you intend to apply for. Then complete the Google sheet that is emailed in order to receive an application. The Google sheet can be updated at any time through July 19, 2025.

3. How many levels will there be in the Prospects Division? Three levels (Red, White and Blue) with multiple tiers at each level. For example, Red Prospects Tier I is the highest competition level in the Prospects Division.

4. Is there an application process for the Prospects Division? Yes – applications will be sent on **July 20, 2025** to those clubs that complete the Google sheet. The deadline to submit applications is **August 23, 2025**. Applications will be reviewed by a volunteer Prospects Committee comprised of hockey directors and club presidents. While clubs within and outside Illinois are welcome to apply, the goal of CSDHL is to ensure that Illinois teams have a place to compete in the Prospects Division. The Prospects Division levels will be announced on **September 1, 2025**, and subject to change following the declaration round games.

5. What are the league fees for the Prospects Division? \$1,500.00 per team for the 2025-2026 season.

6. Will the Prospects Division have a “Peoria Rule”? Yes, the Peoria Rule will be applied to all tiers of White and Blue levels and for all teams within those levels at Squirt through Midget. Note that the application of the Peoria Rule to Bantam and Midgets is different from NIHL. If an out-of-state club is accepted into the Prospects Division and did not compete in NIHL during the 2024-2025 season, the Peoria Rule will be applied to them for at least the 2025-2026 season. The Peoria Rule means that certain teams competing in the Prospects Division will be required to play their

home games at an opposing team's rink if the opposing team does not wish to travel to their home rink. The opposing team pays for the ice under the Peoria Rule.

7. How many games will teams in the Prospects Division play? We are looking at a 28-game season: 8 declaration round games, followed by 20 regular season games. The deadline to complete the 8 declaration round games will be **October 26, 2025**. Regular season play will begin on **November 8, 2025** and end on **January 24, 2026**.

8. Will the Prospects Division have playoffs? Yes – playoffs will begin on **January 29, 2026**. The top 8 teams in each Tier will participate in playoffs – Round Robin play followed by a championship game.

9. How will games be scheduled for the Prospects Division? An initial grid to schedule declaration round games will be released to clubs on **September 5, 2025**. A second grid will be released to clubs on **November 1, 2025** to schedule all regular season games based on final placement after the declaration round.

10. Will there be an official scheduling meeting for the Prospects Division? No – club representatives (ice scheduler, team manager or coach) are responsible for scheduling all games based on the grids released by CSDHL on September 9 and November 1. This can be done via phone, email, Sign-Up Genius, etc.

11. What are the time rules for games played in the Prospects Division? Visit the CSDHL website at <https://www.csdlh.org/> for information on times for periods, penalties, overtime, ice cuts (for Midget level) and referees.

12. How will games be scored in the Prospects Division? Gamesheet will be used. More information and training videos can be found at <https://www.csdlh.org/team-manager-resources/game-sheet-training/44969>.

13. Who is responsible for securing referees for games played in the Prospects Division? CSDHL will secure referees for all declaration and regular season games played in Illinois. It is important for teams to get all games scheduled within the timeframe set by CSDHL.

14. Are clubs required to have athletic trainers for home games at the Bantam and Midget levels of the Prospects Division? Athletic trainers are required for CSDHL Major and Minor teams at the Bantam and Midget levels, and at the Midget

level for the Prospects Division. Athletic trainers are *strongly encouraged* for the Bantam level in the Prospects Division.

15. Other Important Dates: The CSDHL scheduling meeting for Major and Minor Divisions will be held on **August 9, 2025** at the Hyatt Hotel in Schaumburg – club representatives for the Prospects Division are strongly encouraged to attend to receive patches, helmet stickers and other important information for the season. The CSDHL Annual Meeting will be held on **September 9, 2025** at the new Oakton Ice Arena. The CSDHL/Prospects Board meeting will be held via Zoom on **November 18, 2025**.