

AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

"Dedicated to the development of today's youth through Athletic and Academic excellence."



November 23, 2025

To: All Girls Organizations

The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. would like to extend an invitation for your teams to participate in the 2026 Tier II Girls Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament. We have been working to improve the tournament format in order to encourage all the girls' teams in Illinois to participate. National Eligible age divisions' teams whose tryouts were held in June are required to register and participate in the State Championships Tournament. Registration opens December 1, 2025, and closes at 11:59pm December 28, 2025.

The event will consist of the Round Robin games to take place at the Glenview Community Ice Center in Glenview, Illinois between Thursday, February 19, 2026 & Sunday, February 22, 2026. The schedule for all Tier II Girls' levels including play-down matchups will be posted by January 15, 2026. The Championship Games will take place at the Nicholas Sportsplex in Mount Prospect, Illinois on Saturday & Sunday, February 28 & March 1, 2026, for the 14U, 16U, and 19U age levels. The Championship Games will take place at the Nicholas Sportsplex in Mount Prospect, Illinois on Saturday, March 7, 2026, for the 10U & 12U age levels. The top two teams in each age classification determined by the round-robin format will play for the State Championship.

In addition, the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament Committee will offer consolation games for the 10U and 12U age levels.

Age divisions for the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament will include 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Champions of all Tier I & Tier II Girls 14U, 16U, and 19U age divisions will advance to the Central District Championships March 7-9, 2026. In St. Louis, Missouri.

(Note: At the 10U & 12U age levels, teams do not play beyond the State Tournament as there are no USAH Nationals at these levels).

Entrance fee to the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois Championship Tournament for National Eligible levels 14U, 16U and 19U is \$1,700.00.

Entrance fee to the Tier II Girls' Illinois Championship Tournament for 10U & 12U teams is \$1,350.00.



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This year there will be play-down games at all Tier II Girls divisions. At time of registration, teams only need to pay the registration fee of \$175.00. The balance of \$1,525 (*National Bound*) and \$1,175.00 (*Non- National Bound*) will be paid by those teams that make it into the Round Robin. For all teams that participate in a play-down game, the two (2) teams are responsible for splitting the cost of the ice and officials. The game will be played at the higher seeded teams' home ice.

THE 2026 TIER II GIRLS' ILLINOIS CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT HAS SECURED A CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINER TO BE ON SITE FOR ALL 14U, 16U AND 19U ROUND ROBIN & CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES.

Format: All Girls' Age Divisions will play a minimum of three games. Divisions with only three teams will play two games to determine which two teams will advance to the Championship game. All playdown games must be completed by February 12, 2026. The final Round Robin Tournament schedule for all age divisions will be posted by February 15, 2026. Teams advancing to the Round Robin **MUST PAY THEIR BALANCE BY FEBRUARY 15, 2026.**

Registration Procedures for all Girls' Teams: If your team chooses to participate in the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament, you must do the following:

Each team must register electronically on the AHAI website.

<https://www.ahai.org/about/illinois-state-championship/117125>

then scroll down to Tier II Girls

<https://www.ahai.org/tournaments/tier-ii-girls/28038>

1. Each team must fully complete the Registration Form electronically (*one for each team choosing to participate*) to register their team for the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament anytime between 12:00 a.m., Monday, December 1, 2025, and 11:59 pm, Sunday, December 28, 2025. The contact person for your team should be the one who can schedule the Playdown Game(s) prior to the final schedule, if playdowns apply. (*This does not necessarily have to be the person who does the actual registration and rankings*).
2. Each Team **MUST** submit to the AHAI Girls Director, Anita Lichterman, the rankings list of the teams within their specific age division. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE RANKINGS IS JANUARY 3, 2026.** Please rate **ALL** teams within the specific age division except those out-of-state teams within the girls league.



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Please give thought about your rankings. The best hockey team you have played should be placed in the #1 spot, etc. Teams need to be ranked, including those you did not play during the regular season.

3. This year there will be a mandatory Head Coach Rankings Meeting held virtually in the evening on Thursday, January 8, 2026. The Head Coach for each team is required to participate in the rankings; please be sure to have

coverage if your team happens to be on the ice. Meetings will be specific to each age level. More information on specific times along with the Zoom invite will be sent separately as the date draws near. If the Head Coach is unable to attend, an email must be sent to the AHAI Girls Director, Anita Lichterman, stating the reason why & the name of the replacement coach. Prior approval is required by the AHAI Girls Director.

If the Head Coach does NOT attend & a replacement coach is NOT approved, the Affiliate Organization and their specific team may not comment on the posted rankings. Each team may only send **ONE (1)** Head Coach or her/his approved replacement to the Rankings Meeting.

4. AHAI Girls' Director, Anita Lichterman, will notify all organizations of the process that will be used to submit your rosters by December 1, 2025.
5. All fees must be paid electronically during the electronic registration process. Special care should be taken to complete all information requested.
6. The 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament Director must approve the team entry.
7. All coaches and non-uniformed personnel participating in the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament must have completed the appropriate level of the AHAI Coaching Education Program, Screening & SafeSport as required by USA Hockey & AHAI. Please refer to page 77-79, Article 21, Coaches, in the 2025-26 AHAI By-Laws, Rules & Regulations located on the AHAI website. www.ahai.org



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8. All double-rostered players (*i.e., rostered on a girls' team youth team*) must have declared which team she will play on for purposes of advancing to District and National tournaments (*14U and older*). This declaration must be made, via e-mail, to Tom Hansen, Central District Registrar, tjhansen25@yahoo.com by December 31, 2025, and to Anita Lichterman: girls@ahai2.org & Laura Johnson: registrar@ahai2.org. If such declaration is not made by the deadline, the Central District Registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of such player based solely on the effective date of the earlier Team Roster Form (*Form 1-T submitted*). Violation of this regulation may result in your team facing expulsion from the Tournament.
9. AHAI has secured the Glenview Community Ice Center in Glenview, Illinois to conduct all Round Robin games. All Championship games will take place at the Nicholas Sportsplex in Mount Prospect, Illinois on Saturday & Sunday, February 28, 2026 & March 1, 2026, respectively for 14U, 16U, and 19U; Saturday, March 7, 2026, for 10U and 12U. The 10U & 12U consolation games will be played at the Glenview Community Ice Center in Glenview, Illinois on Sunday, February 22, 2026.
10. By completing the electronic application, it is understood that the Champions determined in the Tier II Girls 14U, 16U, and 19U Divisions MUST advance to the Central District Tournament, March 7-9, 2026.
Tier I & Tier II Girls Central District Championships Tournament - 14U, 16U, 19U - will be held in St. Louis, Missouri.
11. Should an organization withdraw from the tournament after the registration deadline, there will be NO REFUND and that organization's teams may not be eligible for the 2026 Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament.

If you have any questions, comments, or problems with the electronic registration process, please feel free to contact Anita Lichterman, AHAI Girls Director at: (847) 414-5737 or girls@ahai.org.

Thank you for your cooperation and GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS!

Sincerely,

Anita Lichterman
AHAI Girls Director
AHAI Player Safety Coordinator

Kevin Bolger
President, Amateur Hockey Association Illinois



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