# WSHA Dual Roster and Cross Roster Guidelines

## Terms & Definitions (per WAHA)

**Dual Rostering**

A player may be rostered on **two teams in different age classifications** (for example, 10U and 12U) within the same association, provided all WAHA eligibility requirements are met. Players **may not** be rostered on more than one team in the **same age classification** (for example, Squirt A and Squirt B).

**Girls Rostering (Cross Rostering)**

A **female player** may be rostered on **one youth team and one girls team** at the same age classification (for example, 12U Co-ed and 12U Girls), if approved by WAHA by **November 15** of the current season.

### 1. Purpose and Guiding Principles

These guidelines provide a consistent process for WSHA decisions involving dual rostering and girls' cross rostering. They are intended to guide the Board of Directors, coaches, and families; they are not a guarantee that a player will move between teams. Every decision must prioritize player development and safety, comply with current WAHA requirements, and preserve roster stability. WSHA requires players to designate a primary team each season.

### 2. When Dual or Cross Rostering May Be Considered

A request begins with a demonstrated need for a team, **defined by WSHA as having fewer than 12 skaters available for an upcoming game or tournament, or when no rostered goalie is available**, or when other circumstances materially affect team viability. A coach may ask the Board to consider an exception when circumstances warrant. if there are more interested players than available spots, age-eligible cross-rostered players receive preference.

### 3. Decision-making and Communication Process

1. **Identify the need.** ~1 week prior, the team's head coach determines a need for an upcoming game.
2. **Coordinate coach-to-coach.** The requesting team's coach contacts the player's primary team's head coach before contacting any family. Coaches review schedule conflicts, that team's available numbers, player roles, and appropriate candidates.
3. **Review the player and roster impact.** The coaches consider skill, maturity, safety, workload, team viability, WAHA roster rules, and tournament eligibility.

4. **Obtain approval.** Both head coaches must agree. The registrar and BOD are notified of the initial player participation and approximately how many games the player will participate in throughout the season. Subsequent participation requests do not need approval.
5. **Contact the family.** After internal agreement, the requesting coach discusses the opportunity, expectations, and schedule with the parent. Participation is voluntary.
6. **Monitor and reassess.** Coaches track participation, fatigue, safety, development, roster impact, and applicable game-count requirements. The Board may pause or end the arrangement if circumstances change.

## 4. Participation Rules and Priorities

- The player's primary team has first priority for practices, games, and tournaments unless both head coaches approve a specific exception.
- A player may miss a primary-team game only when the head coaches agree that the requesting-team need is exceptional—for example, avoiding cancellation because too few skaters or no goalie is available—and the primary team still has adequate numbers.
- Dual- or cross-rostered players must not reduce appropriate playing opportunities for players rostered primarily to the requesting team.
- Coaches are responsible for tracking and verifying games according to current WAHA eligibility rules for participation in postseason play.

## 5. Exceptions

Individual cases may be decided by the Board after consultation with the head coach and family. The Board may approve an exception when it is safe, developmentally appropriate, compliant with existing policies, and necessary for team viability.

## 2026-2027 Cross/Dual Rostering Player/Parent Expectations

- The requested skater(s) may attend practice with their dual- or cross-rostered team based on coach discretion.
- On any given game day, the requested skater(s) will not play a game with their dual- or cross-rostered team before also playing game(s) with their primary team unless both coaches agree.
- Parents will monitor skater's fatigue and communicate with coaches accordingly.

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