

Grow the Game Sanctioning

The following information provides the ground rules for sanctioning 'Grow the Game' events. Check with your District Registrar if you have questions or need more information.

Grow the Game events can be sanctioned as USA Hockey events with the approval of the District Registrar or his/her designee. Try Hockey for Free events registered within the USA Hockey Host Site Portal will be sanctioned under Grow the Game events automatically upon staff approval.

The steps to the process and guidelines for consideration are:

- The host program submits a brief description of the event:
 - Date, time, agenda/schedule/description of the event
- Each participant is required to wear gloves (any kind) and a helmet (bike helmets are okay).
- GTG events do not require full equipment or neck laceration protection, however, an event host may choose to require full equipment
- Completed IMR/Waiver required for each participant.
- THFF online registration includes the IMR/Waiver electronically
- Hard copies should be provided for 'walk up' participants
- Properly registered coaches required to be on-ice

After review and approval, the event will be USA Hockey sanctioned.

There are no 'hard and fast' rules as to length or structure to provide flexibility to allow programs to develop introductory events that fit their needs, however, below are guidelines that should be considered when reviewing an event:

- The event should be a true Grow the Game event.
- An event for a new player to try hockey 1 up to 4 times.
- The program could be a one-time event or it could be held (for example) three Saturdays in a row or every Sunday all summer long, as long as it is open to NEW players.
- You should not approve a real 'program' or a league
- Example: a 6 week session where teams were formed and games were played is not considered a grow the game event.
- Participants do not need to register for a USA Hockey membership number for the grow the game events.
- They will need to do so once they join a 'real program' or league, at which point all normal USA Hockey requirements, including equipment, will take effect.

The Registrar (or his/her designee) can approve the event with an email or you can use the Special Event Sanction form. The form is not required, however, it would be best to have detailed information about the event. The sanctioning fee will be waived for Grow the Game events.

