

This message outlines the **Out-of-Community (OOC) waiver process** under the Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA), providing important details about how players can seek permission to try out for teams outside their designated home associations. Here's a concise summary and clarification:

◆ Purpose of OOC Waiver Process

Allows players to try out for **non-Tier I** teams **outside their local hockey association** if specific conditions in their home association prevent their desired participation.

“Non-Tier I” includes all Youth programs (travel, house, tournament, etc.) operated by any TAHA Member Association (rink-based program, 501(c)(3), etc.) (Waiver process for Girls differs from Youth.)

◆ Steps in the OOC Process

1. **Submit OOC Waiver Request Form** via the TAHA website:
<https://www.tahahockey.org/out-of-community>
 2. **OOC Committee Review:**
 - Verifies the player's **residence** and the facts stated on the form. Residency expectation is that the domicile or permanent residence of the player's family – as a unit – is the address from which the family will file their income tax.
 - Contacts both **local** and **target associations** for team availability and structure.
 - Meets **weekly** to review requests and determine:
 - Approval/denial
 - Whether additional info is needed
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◆ Common Justifications for OOC Requests

- Home association **does not offer:**
 - Player's **position** (e.g., too many goalies)
 - Appropriate **age division** (e.g., no 14U house or 18U travel team)
 - Desired **level of play** (e.g., no AA option)
 - Player was **cut or released** from a team
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◆ Geographic Proximity Requirement

- Player must seek opportunities in the **next geographically closest community**:
 - Example: **San Antonio** → **Austin** → **Houston**
 - Must exhaust options in order
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◆ Waiver Limitations

- **Season-specific**: Waiver is valid **only for that playing season**
 - May include **contingent conditions**, e.g.:
 - If player doesn't make the team, they **must return** to the home association
 - Regarding **relocations**, OOC or out-of-state players are not eligible to attend tryouts or sign contracts or commitments prior to providing **proof of intent and affirmative action to permanently relocate in a realistic timeline** (certain documentation evidencing and/or supporting the player's relocation may be requested).
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◆ Houston & College Station Boundary Rule

- A **border line** separates Houston and College Station:
 - Line: **Bellville** → **Hempstead** → **Magnolia** → **Conroe**
 - Players **living within these border cities** can choose either community
 - Players outside this line must play within their **respective local community** (unless grandfathered)
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◆ Other Notes

- **Younger age groups** and **house/rec level** requests may be evaluated differently than older/travel ones.
- The OOC Committee balances **protecting local programs** with **supporting player development and opportunity**.
- **Zoom call recommended** for complex cases or further clarification.