2026–2027 CHC League Declaration Rules & Regulations

Youth: 8U, 10U (Tier 2, 3, 4), 12U (Tier 2, 3, 4), 14U (Tier 3, 4)

This document establishes the 2026-2027 CHC Hockey League rules, procedures, league configurations, post-season state tournaments, and 8U Jamborees for CHC Full Member Programs.

I. Season Dates:

The CHC 8U through 14U regular season will begin on **Sunday, August 29, 2026, and end on Sunday, February 14, 2027**.

II. Declaration Specifics (8U, 10U, 12U and 14U-Tier 3 & 4):

Whether you are declaring as 'Youth State Tournament Eligible' (Option 1), or 'Not Declared' (Option 2), registering teams is a two-step process. Each team must register on the CT Hockey Team Declaration Registration page, then choose between the following listed under 'Declarations for all teams.

1. **Option 1 'OPEN/Declared'** (Youth State Tournament Eligible): You commit to CHC league play and elect to participate in a CHC end of season event or tournament.

   Then proceed below to the drop-down below called *'For all teams, please select if the team would like to participate in a State Tournament'*: **Choose Yes.**

or:

2. **Option 2: 'Not Declared'** You decline participation in CHC league play, and any end of season event or tournament.

   Then proceed below to the drop-down below called *'For all teams, please select if the team would like to participate in a State Tournament'*: **Choose No.**

For 8U:

- All 8u teams must choose **'Declared or Not Declared'.**
- Then proceed below to the drop-down below called *'For all teams, please select if the team would like to participate in a State Tournament' (aka: Jamborees)*: **Choose Yes or No.**

III. Opt-Outs – 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U-Tier 3 & 4:

1. Teams will be given the opportunity to decline participation in CHC State Tournaments.
2. **The deadline to opt-out is November 1, 2026, and must be forwarded to tournament directors Dave Fritz & Sarah Waddle via email by this date**.
3. **If any team chooses to opt out after the deadline, the program is still responsible for that team's tournament deposit. The only exclusion is 14U teams that have disbanded.**

4. **IMPORTANT: CHC member programs are responsible for confirming their teams listed on the CHC site under the Division drop-down are categorized / declared accurately (i.e.: Tier 2, Open/Declared, Undeclared, or Jamboree) on the CHC site *PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER 1, 2026, OPT-OUT DEADLINE LISTED ABOVE.* The division dropdowns are used to tabulate team / division quantities and to formulate the composition of each tournament.**

IV. Scheduling Games – 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U-Tier 3 & 4:

1. CHC league game schedules must be entered on the CHC website with the following requirements:
   a. There is no limit to how many times CHC teams can play each other, **but the first four games vs. the same CHC League team must be categorized as 'CHC League Game',** (Not 'Game'). These games are used for the following:
      1. Fulfillment of the CHC League 20 game minimum requirement.
      2. The first two CHC League games count towards rankings.
   b. Any additional games vs. the same CHC team must be categorized as **'Game'**.
2. Games scheduled vs. undeclared teams must be categorized as **'Game'.**
3. Games scheduled vs. teams within your program must be categorized as **'Game'.**
4. 8U games must be categorized as **'Cross-Ice Game'**.

V. 8U:

The following structure of 8U play is designed to further implement USA Hockey's American Development Model and is based on the revised rules and requirements as implemented by USA Hockey. The 8U structure shall be as follows:

1. All CHC 8U teams are categorized as Cross-Ice.
2. No scores are recorded.
3. USA Hockey has eliminated all full-ice practices & games until **TBD**
4. Cross-Ice is defined as an ice surface no longer than 100 feet. This is the longest playing dimension allowed, (Note, SONO's Training Rink is approved for cross-Ice play).
5. USA Hockey has advised that if teams choose to play on ice surfaces longer than 100 feet – insurance will not be in effect for all parties involved with this event.
6. USA Hockey's ADM guidelines are to be utilized for all games & practices.
7. Since full-ice mites have been partial, only cross-ice and/or jamboree events will be offered by the CHC at season's end.

Enforcement:

1. Cross-Ice teams choosing to play on ice surfaces longer than 100 feet will be fined $750.00 for their first offense.
2. A second offense will automatically disqualify the **entire program** from participation in all 2025-2026 CHC-sponsored State and Regional tournaments at all levels, namely, 8U, 10U, 12U, 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, and 18U.
3. Further sanctions may be levied after a hearing before the Executive Committee.

VI. Gameplay – 10U, 12U, & 14U-Tier 3 & 4:

1. 10U, 12U, and 14U teams will play all games as non-tiered and will be ranked periodically throughout the season.
2. The end of season rankings will determine team placement for CHC Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 State tournaments.
3. Teams can schedule games with any team, ('A' through 'C' or color designation) of their choosing.

4. Knowing that many programs have multiple teams at a given level, team schedulers need to pay close attention and work with their coaches when formulating their schedules.

VII. Game Requirements – 10U, 12U, & 14U-Tier 3 & 4:

1. Fulfillment of CHC League game requirements is the top priority.
2. Any team that does not make the necessary schedule accommodations to play all required games will have failed to meet the requirements to be eligible for State Tournament play and will be excluded from the State Tournament. **There will be no exceptions**.
3. A minimum of 18 games vs. CHC League teams are required. Individual players must play in 12 games.
4. **There is no limit to how many times CHC teams can play each other, but the following regulations are in effect for the 2025-2026 season**:
   a. **The first four CHC League Games count towards the minimum 18 game requirement.**
   b. **The first two CHC League Games will count towards rankings.**
   c. **Tournament games do not count towards the minimum 18 game requirement or rankings.**
   d. **Games played against teams within your program do not count towards the minimum 18 game requirement or rankings.**
   e. **Games versus Undeclared teams and 14u Tier 2:**
      - **Do not count towards rankings.**
      - **Will count towards the minimum 18 game and regional requirements.**
5. All CHC 10U, 12U and 14U (Tier 3 & 4) games will utilize a maximum differential of 6 goals.
6. Programs are strongly encouraged to schedule games with our CHC girl's programs.
7. **All cancellations must be agreed upon by both teams.**
8. **No cancellations are allowed during the last three weeks of the season.** (When ice & referee costs are incurred due to last minute cancellations, those matters are to be resolved between the teams of record - typical to prior seasons).
9. **Any non-agreed cancellations will be a forfeit.** – If a team has more than two forfeits, they will be disqualified from all state tournament play. (Games which result in a forfeit, will be recorded as 6-0 for rankings)
10. The CHC strongly encourages teams to utilize all available means to **reschedule** games in lieu of cancellation.
11. The CHC (when requested) will resolve all disputes resulting from game cancellations.
12. **Scheduling:** All games are to be entered on the CHC site
13. **Results:** Scores are to be entered through the CHC site as well as the teams' site.
14. **Deadlines:**
    a. Score sheets are to be submitted by either team by **Monday by midnight** after the game has been completed, via email to the respective CHC Division Directors;

       10u: Brandon Johnson: bej@ctchiefs.com
       12u: Sarah Waddle: Sarahwaddle76@hotmail.com
       14u: Dave Fritz: dforrestfritz@gmail.com
       Score sheets should be submitted as a PDF or JPEG and must be clear and legible.

    b. Scores are to be entered by either team by **Monday by midnight** after the game has been completed through the teams' site.

c. **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY WARNING: scores not entered, or game sheets not submitted by Monday by midnight will not count toward rankings, or the CHC minimum 20 game requirement.**

THIS APPLIES TO BOTH TEAMS.

VIII. Rankings:

1. **IMPORTANT: CHC member programs are responsible for confirming their teams listed on the CHC site under the Division drop-down are categorized / declared accurately (ie: Tier 2, 3, Open, Jamboree, or Undeclared) on the CHC site PRIOR TO THE NOVEMBER 11, 2025, OPT-OUT DEADLINE LISTED ABOVE. The division dropdowns are used to tabulate team / division quantities and to formulate the composition of each tournament.**
2. CHC will utilize www.CThockeyRatings.com to rank all 10U through 14U declared teams.
3. Rankings will go-live on **November 2026, and** will be updated weekly thereafter.

IX. Tier Awards / Team Placement:

At the end of the CHC regular season, rankings will be compiled, and teams will be awarded the following for each age classification in the following order:

Tier 2: 10U & 12U:

The top eight ranked teams at each age classification will participate in their respective CHC Tier 2 State Tournament.

Tier 3: 10U, 12U, & 14U:

The next twelve ranked teams at each age classification will participate in their CHC Tier 3 State Tournament.

Tier 4: 10U, 12U, & 14U:

- The next twelve teams at each age classification will default to the CHC Tier 4 **State Championship**.
- The remaining teams at each age classification default to CHC Tier 4 **Traditional**
- **Tournaments**.

X. Tournaments (Misc.) – 8U, 10U, 12U, & 14U-Tier 3 & 4:

1. All teams MUST BE in Good Standing with CHC at the end of the CHC Season. Teams not in good standing at the end of the CHC Season will be excluded from tournament play in the 2026-2027 Tournament Season.
2. To be eligible for Tournament play, each CHC Program must have paid, at a minimum, the required Tournament Deposit of $500 per declared team. **Deposits need to be paid to the CHC by November 1, 2026.**
3. If a program has not paid their deposit, no team from that program will be allowed to compete in any tournaments. There will be no exceptions.
4. Out of state full-member programs (Pawling, Putnam) are eligible to participate in all CHC end of season tournaments. Upon qualifying, both programs are eligible to represent Connecticut beyond the state level at Tier 2 and Tier 3 Sectional, Regional and National Tournaments.

5. Teams that are approved by the CHC to roster any player from a higher age classification ('playing down') will be ineligible for CHC end of season tournaments.

XI. CHC STATE Tournaments & Dates (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

1. All CHC State tournament dates are in the process of being finalized.
2. CHC 8U post season Cross-Ice Jamboree events will be held in February.
3. CHC Tier 2, 3 & 4 (14U) post season tournaments will be held in February/March.
4. CHC Tier 2 (10U & 12U) post season tournaments will be held in February/March.
5. CHC Tier 4 (10U & 12U) post season tournaments will be held in February /March.

XII. USA HOCKEY REGIONAL / NATIONAL Tournaments & Dates (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

♦ **USA Hockey Tier 2 New England Regionals (March 19-21, 2027):**

12U: (Vermont:)

- The State Winner and Runner-Up will be required to represent CT at the Tier 2 Regional Tournament.

♦ **USA Hockey Tier 2 Nationals (March 30-29, 2027):**

14U: (Location: Westchester, PA)

- The State Winner will be required to represent CT at the Tier 2 National Tournament.

♦ **USA Hockey Tier 3 New England Regionals (March 19- April 4, 2027):**

12U: (Maine:)

- The State Winner and Runner-Up will be required to represent CT at the Tier 3 Regional Tournament.

♦ **USA Hockey Tier 3 New England Regionals (March 19-21, 2027):**

14U: (New Hampshire:)

- The State Winner and Runner-Up will be required to represent CT at the Tier 3 Regional Tournament.