

Tournament Policy

1. Mandatory Tournament Policy (Base Obligation)

The Head Coach, in consultation with the Team Coordinator, shall use the following table to determine the base number of required tournaments for the season, based on the team's level of play.

Definition of Level of Play: "Level of Play" is defined by the team's original designation. If a team "decks up or down" during the declaration season, the team is bound by the original level designation for tournament selection purposes for the current season.

Definition of Out of Town: For the purposes of this policy, an "Out of Town" tournament is defined as any tournament location outside the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Level of Play		In-Town Tournaments	Out of Town Tournaments
10U/12U/14U	A1 & A2	2	2
	A3, B1, B2, & B3	2	1
	C1, C2, & C3	1	0
	Prospects	0	0
6U/8U	All teams/levels	0	0

A. Selection Authority: The selection of the required tournaments (as specified for the team's skill level) shall be at the sole discretion of the Head Coach. A team vote is not required for these base tournaments unless the conditions in Section 1.B are met.

B. Mandatory Tournament Exceptions Requiring a Team Vote: A team vote, requiring a 75% affirmative threshold, is mandatory to approve participation in a required tournament if it falls under either of the following conditions:

Condition	Vote Requirement
Holidays: Tournaments that fall over the Thanksgiving or Christmas/New Year's holiday breaks.	75% of the team must vote in favor.
Distance: Tournaments that are scheduled more than 400 miles (one-way) from Meramec Shark Tank.	75% of the team must vote in favor.

C. Mandatory Payment Obligation: All players and their families are financially responsible for all required tournaments selected by the coach, including any exceptions approved under Section 1.B, regardless of whether the player attends the tournament.

2. Additional Tournament Policy

This section governs tournaments proposed *in addition to* the required number of tournaments outlined in Section 1.

A. Vote Requirement: Any tournament proposed in addition to the required number of tournaments outlined for the team's skill level requires a 75% affirmative vote to be approved.

B. Staggered Voting (Preventing Overcommitment): If more than one Additional Tournament is proposed, the Team Coordinator must present each tournament for a vote one at a time. The results of the current vote must be finalized and communicated to the team before the next vote may be initiated.

C. Conditional Payment Obligation for Additional Tournaments: A player is financially responsible for the fee of an approved Additional Tournament under any of the following conditions:

1. The player's vote was recorded as 'Yes' (regardless of whether they ultimately attend).
2. The player's vote was recorded as 'No' (or was a non-vote counted as 'No'), but the player later participates in the tournament.

3. General Rules and Procedures

A. Eligible Voters: Each player on the team shall represent one eligible vote on any tournament that requires a team vote.

B. Defining the Roster for Votes: The "total number of eligible player votes" will be determined by the team's roster size on the date the vote is initiated.

C. Mandatory Blackout Dates: No team travel is permitted on the following mandatory club blackout dates:

1. **Annual Fundraiser Weekend:** Typically held in early February.
2. **BNC Playdown Weekend:** Typically held in late February.
3. **BNC Championship Weekend:** Typically held in late February or early March.

D. Travel Permit Requirements: A Travel Permit is required for all out-of-town tournaments.

Exception: A Travel Permit is not required for tournaments played in any location where a MO Hockey Affiliate Club is located, even if the location is outside the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

E. Voting Method: All votes required under this policy must be conducted using a confidential voting mechanism to ensure full confidentiality of each vote.

F. Vote Threshold: For any tournament subject to a team vote, participation is only approved if 75% or more of the total number of eligible player votes are in favor.

G. Non-Voter Procedure (Default to 'No'):

1. The Team Coordinator must make at least two separate attempts to solicit votes from all families by the stated deadline.
2. Any player's vote that is not submitted by the stated deadline, despite the two attempts being made, will be officially counted as a vote against ('No') the proposed tournament.

H. Roster Substitutions:

1. **10U and Older Teams:** Generally, teams may not pull players from other teams to participate in a tournament. However, an exception may be made in emergency situations (e.g., injuries, illnesses, or lack of a goalie). For an exception to be granted, the following criteria must be met:

- Eligibility: Any substitute (skater or goalie) must be from a team of an equal or lower level of play than the requesting team.
- Threshold (Skaters): For skaters, this exception may only be invoked if the team has fewer than 13 available skaters for the tournament.
- Required Permissions:
 1. Permission must be obtained from the substitute player's current Head Coach.
 2. Formal approval must be granted by the Club Coaching Director.
 3. A temporary roster must be obtained from the Club Registrar prior to the start of the tournament.

2. 6U and 8U Teams: Substitutions are permitted for 6U and 8U teams if there are not enough rostered players to participate. Substitutes must be from an equal or lower-level team.