

## RULES & REGULATIONS

Revised and Adopted August 28, 2025 (most recent changes shaded in grey)

**NOTE:** All Coaches, Managers and/or Team Officials shall have the sole responsibility for making sure that their team meets all the requirements for its classification and meets all the criteria for eligibility for District and State Playoffs. USA Hockey Registrars, Associate Registrars and MAHA District Council Personnel will not review rosters at registration to make this determination nor are they authorized to determine said eligibility at registration. All applicable rules for the above are located in this book and the current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

### I. General Association, Club, and Independent Team Requirements

#### A. Associations.

1. To be an Association within the MAHA, all Associations must be recommended for approval by the affected District Council and receive final approval from the MAHA Executive Committee. An Association must meet all the requirements of the MAHA Affiliate Agreement and execute the agreement with the MAHA prior to their recognition as an Association.
2. Annually a list of all Officers of the Association, including the Coaching Director, with names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses must be submitted online, and the association must certify that their Bylaws have not changed since last season. Any changes must be submitted by August 1 and reviewed by the affected District Council. If recommended for approval, they will be sent to the Executive Committee for final approval. If not approved, they will be returned for further revisions.
3. An Association must allow open registration to all geographic residents within the Association's local boundaries.
4. The Association and all its teams must be in compliance with all MAHA rules and be eligible for District and State playoffs.
5. An association which does not register all of its participants and roster all of its member teams shall be denied the right for any team to play in any league, sanctioned tournaments, play games with Canadian Teams, or enter District or State Playoffs
6. An Association must have a demographic large enough to support it. The Association must demonstrate to the District Council that the Association has sufficient ice contracted for each team / program that is age appropriate for its players. Associations must be self-supporting. A minimum of 30% of their Youth membership shall be ages 10 and under. Associations with girls' teams must be self-supporting. A minimum of 30% of their girl's membership shall be ages 10 and under. Non-compliance requires review of the Association by the respective District Council in which the Association must submit an action plan to meet the 30% of membership at 10 and under and may subject the Association to disciplinary action.
7. All new associations will operate under a three-year probationary period. If prior to the end of the three-year period, the Association does not continue to meet all the requirements and follow all MAHA Rules and Regulations their affiliation can be revoked by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
8. Each Association shall ensure that all their teams at the 10U - 18U age classifications wishing to participate in competition leading to the State Championship notify the State Playoff Committee or their District Council, as appropriate, of their intent to enter the District Playoffs no later than November 1st. Registration for 8U Teams is due by January 1 and Non-Varsity High School and High School Division teams must submit their intent to enter by the December State Playoff Committee meeting.
9. Each local Association must appoint an individual(s) to be their local Coaching Director and shall notify their District Council District Coaching Director and the Michigan Coaching

Director of that appointment, within one week of the appointment. The local Coaching Director serves at the pleasure of the Association, which shall notify the District Council District Coaching Director and Michigan Coaching Director of any changes as they may occur. "Small" Associations (under 100 member's total) may appoint a common Coaching Director to serve several Associations' needs, provided such individual is willing to serve in that capacity. Local Coaching Directors shall attend the annual Regional Coaching Director update meeting and District Coaching Director's meetings scheduled in their area, to assist them in conveying current coaching information to their coaching staff, and to assist in monitoring their coaches' compliance with coaching education requirements. It is strongly recommended that local Coaching Directors positions are an Association voting board member. Coaching Directors are recommended to assist at USA Hockey clinics where their program's coaches are in attendance.

B. Club Team or Independent Team.

1. A Club Team or Independent Team is a team in which its members are selected to participate and have no Association affiliation. These teams are limited to participation only in a, Tier II (16UA & 18UAA split season), Tier 1 (AAA), and Non-Varsity High School and High School classifications and must conform to the rules for their respective classification/division.
2. To be a Club or Independent Team within MAHA, all Clubs or Teams must be recommended for approval by the affected District Council and receive final approval from the MAHA Executive Committee. Each Team must meet all the requirements of the MAHA Affiliate Agreement and execute the agreement with the MAHA prior to their recognition as a Club Team or Independent Team.
3. Annually a list of all Officers of the Club or Team, with names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses must be submitted online, and the Clubs or Teams must certify that their Bylaws have not changed since last season. Any changes must be submitted by August 1 and reviewed by the affected District Council. If recommended for approval, they will be sent to the Executive Committee for final approval. If not approved, they will be returned for further revisions.
4. Have sufficient ice contracted and demonstrate that ice times are age appropriate for its players.
5. All Club or Independent Teams must be in compliance with all MAHA Rules and Regulations and be eligible for District and State playoffs.
6. A club which does not register all of its participants and roster all of its member teams shall be denied the right for any team to play in any league, sanctioned tournaments, play games with Canadian Teams, or enter District or State Playoffs
7. Each independent team must notify the State Playoff Committee or their District Council, as appropriate, of their intent to enter the District and State Playoffs no later than November 1st. Non-Varsity High School and High School Division teams must submit their intent to enter by the December State Playoff Committee meeting.
8. All new Independents will operate under a three-year probationary period. If prior to the end of the three-year period the Club or Team does not continue to meet all the requirements and follow all MAHA rules and regulations their affiliation can be revoked by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

C. An Affiliated Association or Club shall not sponsor a team in another Affiliated Association or Club.

## **II. Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams**

- A. For all participants (players and coaches), managers, locker room monitors and volunteers, USA Hockey registration shall be completed prior to participation in a USA Hockey/MAHA sanctioned event. Sanctioned events include all practices, games, scrimmages, invitational tournaments, clinics, conditioning activities, and tryouts leading toward team selection.
- B. A player may be registered in only one (1) national ice hockey federation. All USA Hockey Participants (players and coaches) must complete the USA Hockey registration process using the USA Hockey website at [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com). Each Participant (player and coach) will pay the USA Hockey individual membership fee and any applicable affiliate individual membership fee at the time of online registration. A Participant registered as a Player shall not be required to pay an additional fee as a Coach and a Participant registered as a Coach shall not be required to pay an additional fee as a Player. Participant registration is complete when the individual member registration information and all appropriate fees are received, and the Participant is claimed by a USA Hockey Member Program. A USA Hockey Member Program is a local association/club approved by and affiliated with MAHA.
- C. Before playing any games, a team must have a USA Hockey approved roster (1-T) from the appropriate USA Hockey Associate Registrar. In the Adult Men's and Women's Rec. divisions, the (1-T) form is required before participating in the District/State playoffs. All rosters and required paperwork must be submitted to the appropriate USA Hockey Associate registrar for review and approval 72 hours before your first scheduled game. Any roster that is presented to the District Associate Registrar that needs additional verification of any players, coaches or manager's eligibility will not be added to the roster until verification has been completed.
- D. Any coach of any team not properly rostered with the USA Hockey and the MAHA who allows his/her team to participate in any games(s) is subject to discipline.
  - 1. A coach or manager who upon the findings of the District Council knowingly allowed the participation of an ineligible player or coach in any game shall be subject to a recommended suspension up to one year.
  - 2. A player or coach upon the findings of the District Council, who knowingly participated in a game as an ineligible player or coach, shall be suspended for not less than thirty (30) days.
- E.
  - 1. Split Season, Pre/Post Season and Pre-Season High School teams. That season runs from August 1 to November 15.
  - 2. Tier 1 and Tier II 14U-19U Regular Season runs from August 1 to April 30.
  - 3. Travel and Tier III regular Season runs from September 1 to April 30.
  - 4. Spring/Summer Season shall be April 1 to August 31 or until player is rostered on a Regular Season roster.
  - 5. Players, who are rostered on a Regular Season team still active in the current season, may not sign (or practice) another team's roster for an upcoming Pre/Post season or spring/summer season team until the team they are currently rostered on has completed their season.

However, the roster, once approved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar, shall not take effect until the first day of any season.
  - 6. Split season 16U Tier II A teams will play in a Split Season Championship in October. The champion will represent Split Season in the MAHA State Championship at the end of the regular season.

7. Split Season 18U Tier II teams will be playing for the MAHA State Championship in October. The champion will represent Michigan in the USA Hockey national Championships. Only teams participating in this season should use this season type when registering a team.

8. All 16U and 18U Split Season rosters will become dormant at the completion of the Split Season and players will be released in accordance with the MAHA release rules.

9. The MAHA 18U Tier II State Championship in October will be representing Michigan at the 18U USA Hockey National Championships. That roster will remain dormant. The dormant tag will be removed prior to practices leading to Nationals. If this team has no players participating in the MHSSA playoffs, they may request an exception from the MAHA State Playoff Committee to begin practice early.

10. The 18U National Championship participant players are ineligible to participate in more than one State Affiliate or District Championship. They must be released from any roster they are on before Districts or State Championships.

11. All Rosters may be submitted up to 14 days prior to the start of the appropriate season.

- F. All teams are required to meet the requirements outlined in MAHA Rule IV or V for their respective classification, division and category in which they are rostered. Failure to adhere to the requirements shall result in the roster being invalidated and participation shall be halted.

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Division</u></b>	<b><u>Classification</u></b>
Tier I	AAA	14U, 15 Only, 16 Only & 18U Youth
Tier I	AAA	14U – 19U Girls
Travel	AAA	10U - 12U Youth & Girls
Tier II	AA	14U - 18U Youth
Tier II	AA	14U – 19U Girls
Travel	AA	10U - 12U Youth & Girls
Travel	A	9U, 11U & 13U Youth
Tier III	B, BB	10U - 18U Youth
Tier III	B	10U – 19U Girls
Cross-Ice	N/A	6U & 8U

- G. All teams participating in Districts, States, and National tournaments must also adhere to additional rules for District/States eligibility as outlined in Rule IX. Failure to adhere to the requirements shall result in the team being deemed ineligible for participation in Districts, States and/or Nationals.
- H. Procedure for rostering a team: Each team is required to roster online through the USA Hockey Registry Program. This is completed through their Association/organization Register creating the USA 1-T roster. All players, coaches, managers, and volunteers that appear on the roster must also register online at USA Hockey. Before a coach can be added to the roster, he/she is required to complete the online coaching education component for the classification they will be participating in. Coaches, managers, and volunteers must also complete Safe Sport training and an approved MAHA background screening to be added to the roster. Acceptable proof of age shall consist of a readable copy of a player's government issued birth certificate, or, if a birth certificate is not available, a copy of a Passport ID page. A U.S. Military record of birth will be acceptable in lieu of a birth certificate for players born of parent(s) in the U.S. Military. An affidavit sworn to before a Notary Public duly authorized to act in the State of Michigan may be

used only in those circumstances where a birth certificate or U.S. Military record of birth is not legally available. Non-U.S. citizens must provide proof of legal residency and proof of release and transfer from the home country ice hockey federation.

- I. All teams rostered with the MAHA and USA Hockey must have a head coach and team manager in good standing with the MAHA and USA Hockey. Coach and team managers must be rostered at the same time as the players. Teams may roster additional team officials at any time. Coaches and team managers can only be rostered on one team in an age/division classification at a time; ex. Registration with a Bantam A and Bantam B is acceptable since these are different classifications. The team manager shall be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in Tournaments, Districts, State and National playoffs. All 10U and above teams will also need to have team jersey numbers both home and away and player positions entered into the roster.
- J. Once a roster is approved, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Managers may only be deleted from the roster by letter of resignation, removal by the rostering Association for cause, or suspension by the respective District Council notwithstanding appeal reversal. Changes cannot be made from Assistant Coach or Manager to Head Coach or visa-versa, from an approved roster without review by the respective District Council. The District Council Chairperson will notify the Associate Registrar and the State Playoff Committee Chairperson, in writing, of a District Council's approved change in a coaching staff.
- K. A player is a resident of the District in which he/she resides. In cases of divorced parents, the player may be recognized to play as an "In District" player in either of the Districts in which the parents reside. Once the player chooses, the player will remain as an "In District" player, for that District only, for the balance of the regular season.
- L. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closet to their residence, based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps, and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.
- M. 8 & under Cross Ice Programs are to roster using the classification 6 & under or 8 & under and the category is Cross Ice, the division will be N/A. The number of players on these rosters is a maximum of 50. All coaches and volunteer coaches participating with the cross-ice program must be on the roster.
- N. Substitute Goalkeepers.

A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own Association or District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. For a non-National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team classification. For the National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a lower classification team.

A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury to the regular goalie. If a team elects this method for a substitute goalie, the team may have only nineteen (19) players registered at any time so as not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed.

1. Each Youth Classification, Split Season, Invitational Tournament, Pre/Post and Regular season type, team may roster twenty (20) players, including goaltenders. The maximum number of

players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18).

2. Non-Varsity High School Division teams may roster up to 25 players between September 1 and November 14 each season. After November 15, those teams with 20 or more players on their roster would not be able to add any additional players. Any team that falls below 20 could add additional players to bring their team up to 20 players.

3. High School Varsity Division teams may roster 30 players, but can only dress 20 players, including goaltenders for any game.

4. Spring/Summer type teams formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game.

5. Adult US/Adult No-Check classification teams may roster twenty-five (25) players during any season. A team may only dress 20 players for any game, of which only 18 may be skaters, per USA Hockey rules.

O. A player rostered with a Youth or Girls Division classification team is ineligible to simultaneously roster or participate with a team in any Adult Division, College Division, Junior Division High or Prep School Division. Upon participating in any of these divisions, the player is automatically dropped from the Youth or Girls Division roster. A player rostered with a Youth Division classification team may attend tryouts and participate in practices with an Interscholastic High School program as long as they do not participate in any interschool scrimmages or any games. Once they participate in an interschool scrimmage or game, they are automatically released from the Youth or Girls Division roster. Following any of the above occurrences, the team manager of the Youth or Girls Division team must immediately notify the District Registrar of the removal of the player from the roster via a player release form.

P. No player who is properly rostered in any Youth Classification by December 31st of the current playing season, may be rostered after December 31st with any Junior team. With the exception of affiliated players, if the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level.

Q. A rostered team in any of the Youth classifications may not play in more than one (1) classification during the regular season.

R. Rostering Exceptions.

A player may be rostered with only one (1) MAHA/USA Hockey team at a time during the regular (winter) season except as noted below.

1. Adult Division (Men's/Women's) Classifications are allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues.

a. All Adult Men's MAHA Rules and Regulations shall be applicable to Women's rostered teams. Women's players are allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues including playing in Adult Men's leagues.

2. Men or Women are allowed to be rostered on more than one team within the same league if they are participating with the additional team(s) for the purposes of tournament play only. Players must designate to the league which team they will participate with for regular season play.

3. Girls rostered on youth teams are allowed to dual roster and participate on Girls Tier II for tournaments under certain guidelines. See the appropriate Age & Division Classification for specific guidelines.

4. Youth and Girls Tier III players are allowed to dual roster and participate on Tournament Teams for tournaments under certain guidelines. See the appropriate Age & Division Classification for specific guidelines.
- S. Player releases, unless requested by the player, cannot be made later than November 30 of the current playing season.
- T. No players can be added to a team's roster after December 23<sup>rd</sup> of the current playing season to be eligible for District, State and National tournaments. Exceptions to this provision, for District and States, may be made in extraordinary circumstances by a two-thirds majority approval of the State Playoff Committee prior to December 31st. Junior players returning to youth teams will have a deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- U. A player signed to an approved team roster must secure a release in writing from that team before signing with another team. A player receiving a release must be signed to the new team roster, and approved by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar, at least 72 hours in advance of playing in a game. A player requesting a release must be granted that request if he/she is current on their fees as outlined in their Association / team player contract. In absence of the contract a prorated amount must be determined based on participation at the point of the player's release. That prorated amount must be paid before the release will be granted. Any and all equipment belonging to the team must be returned prior to the release as well. The District Council has the authority to release a player who is refused a release by his/her team or Association.

### **III. General Age & Division Classifications**

#### **A. Youth and Girls' General Information.**

All Youth classifications are restricted to U.S. citizens, registered aliens, foreign exchange students, and are limited to amateurs. Players who are a citizen of another country shall be considered eligible if he/she is a full-time resident of Michigan and the parent(s) holds one of the following legal documents: Alien Registration Receipt Card or Permanent Resident Card. The player shall also be considered eligible if the parents hold one of the following non-immigrant temporary visas: A. Government Official; E. Treaty Trader or Investor; G. Representative to International Organization; H. Temporary Worker; I. Foreign Information Media Representative; J. Exchange Alien; L. Intra-company Transferee; M. Academic Student; O. Aliens of Extraordinary Ability; P. Athletes and Entertainers; Q. Cultural Exchange; R. Religious Workers; and TN. Transfer needed

1. Youth and Girls' National Championship bound teams are restricted to only two players that are non-U.S. citizens temporarily residing in the U.S. under any combination of the following immigration visa categories: F. Academic Students; J. Exchange Alien Visa; P. Athletes and Entertainers (excluding their spouses and children under visa category P-4); and Q. International Cultural Exchange Program participants. This restriction does not apply to non-U.S. citizens temporarily residing in the U.S. under category P-4, referenced above, or other visa categories not referenced above, excluding category B. Temporary Visitor.

#### **a. Release.**

A release from the player's home country team/Association authorizing the player to compete for the USA Hockey member team; and,

#### **b. IIHF/Canadian Transfer.**

A Youth Written Transfer form must be completed for all non-citizen players (male and female) less than 18 years of age and approved by USA Hockey

- B. The age classification of a player in the Youth and Girls' classifications shall be determined by their age at midnight on December 31.
- C. 2025 – 2026 Season Age Classifications.

<b><u>Classification</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Birth</u></b>
Adult– eighteen or over	18 or older at date of registration and play
Junior 20U – twenty or under	20 or under as of December 31, 2024
Youth 18U – eighteen or under	2008 & 2007 Birth Years
Youth 16U – sixteen or under	2009 & 2010 Birth Years
Youth 16 – sixteen <b>Only</b>	2009 Birth Year
Youth 15 – fifteen <b>Only</b>	2010 Birth Year
Youth 14U – fourteen or under	2011 Birth Year
Youth 13U – thirteen or under	2012 Birth Year
Youth 12U – twelve or under	2013 Birth Year
Youth 11U – eleven or under	2014 Birth Year
Youth 10U – ten or under	2015 Birth Year
Youth 9U – nine or under	2016 Birth Year
Youth 8U – eight or under	2017 & 2018 Birth Years
Youth 6U – six or under	2019 or later Birth Years
Initiation Program / Learn to Play	Any Age
Women's – eighteen or over	18 or older at date of registration and play
Girls 19U – nineteen or under	2006 or later Birth Years
Girls 16U – sixteen or under	2009 or later Birth Years
Girls 14U – fourteen or under	2011 or later Birth Years
Girls 12U – twelve or under	2013 or later Birth Years
Girls 10U – ten or under	2015 or later Birth Years
Girls 8U – eight or under	2017 or later Birth Years

- D. Game Count Table.
- The following game counts shall be adhered to by teams in the classification in which they participate or roster. The game count is used to provide a proper balance between competition and practice.
  - The following exceptions to the game count table apply:
    - Games played in District, State and National tournaments, in classifications where these are held shall not count toward the game count.
    - For ages 10U and older, all tournaments shall count for four (4) games maximum regardless of the actual number of games played



<u>Category</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Tier I&amp; AAA</u>	<u>Tier II, AA &amp; A</u>	<u>Tier III Girls</u>	<u>Tier III Youth B &amp; BB</u>	<u>High School</u>
<b>Youth</b>	8U	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Limit on Half- Ice Games	N/A
	10U	50	45	N/A	40	N/A
	12U	55	55	N/A	40	N/A
	14U	60	60	N/A	45	N/A
	15/16 Only	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	16U	65	65	N/A	50	N/A
	18U	65	65	N/A	55	N/A
	High School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65
<b>Girls</b>	8U	N/A	N/A	No Limit on Half- Ice Games	N/A	N/A
	10U	50	45	40	N/A	N/A
	12U	55	55	40	N/A	N/A
	14U	60	60	45	N/A	N/A
	16U	65	65	50	N/A	N/A
	19U	65	65	55	N/A	N/A

#### IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

##### A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.

1. The Tier I category and AAA Division teams are the highest level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10, 11 & 12, and 13 which are designated as Travel Category AAA Division teams. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications teams shall be designated as Tier I Category and the Division will be AAA. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, & 13 age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. Tier 1 teams are teams that may participate within a Tier 1 MAHA/USA Hockey sanctioned league that may involve participation with similar teams from Michigan and from across the country.
3. Only teams from those organizations approved by the Executive Committee will be allowed to roster as Tier 1 or AAA teams in Michigan and shall be the only teams allowed to advertise as Tier I, AAA, elite, or similar designations for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier 1 team.

4. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III,D.2.b)
5. To qualify as a Tier I Organization the following criteria must be followed:
  - a. Not more than (10) Tier 1 organizations will be awarded on an annual basis for a period from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. An application must be sent to the State Playoff Committee Chairperson for consideration not later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the season's start. The State Playoff Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee who will determine the number of Tier I Organizations for the next season: up to six in Districts 2, 3, 4 combined; up to one in District 5; up to two in District 6; and one in Districts 7 and 8 combined. In addition to the above, the Tier I 18U team existing as of June 2019 in District 7 is grandfathered. Upon dissolution of this team, it shall not be replaced other than via the provisions of this rule. The Executive Committee will make their decisions no later than the Annual Winter meeting of the preceding season. Each organization is limited to one team at each age classification.
  - b. Each Tier I Organizations must have teams at the following recognized AAA levels: 10U (Major), 12U (Minor and Major), 14U (Minor and Major), 15 & 16 Only, 18U (Major). The 15 Only and 16 Only categories are to include only those players who are in that birth year. Organizations wishing to apply without a full complement of teams may do so but must provide a 5-year plan that demonstrates a sustainable program working towards having teams at all the recognized levels.
  - c. Tier I organizations are limited to the following non-Michigan players per organization:
    - a. 10U Tier I - Zero (0)
    - b. 11U Tier I - Zero (0)
    - c. 12U Tier I – One (1)
    - d. 13U Tier I – Two (2)
    - e. 14U Tier I – Five (5)
    - f. 15U Tier I – Six (6)
    - g. 16U Tier I – Seven (7)
    - h. 18U Tier I – Nine (9) and must be less than 50% of the team roster
  - d. At the 10U age classification, teams may only form at the 10U (Major age 10) level only. Teams may have a maximum of four (4) players playing up from below the age 10 age group.
  - e. At the 14U classification, no team may roster any player 12 years of age or under.
  - f. Tier I Organizations will have to reapply each year to maintain their Tier I status. Returning Organizations will have preference but will not be guaranteed a Tier I status each year.
6. Each MAHA Tier I Organization must play the other Tier I organizations, excluding tournaments, which determines seeding for the MAHA State Playoffs.
  - a. The amount of home/away games per age classification will be determined annually and posted in the MAHA State Playoff Tournament Handbook.
  - b. Schedule and standings will be posted on the MAHA website.
  - c. The Tier 1 clubs will meet prior to the beginning of the season with the MAHA Vice President of Youth Hockey to create the administrative logistics (i.e., game playing rules, critical dates, home team for third games, protesting, standing tie breaker, etc).
7. In the Tier 1 classifications, player movement will be allowed as follows:
  - a. Players shall only move within their own organization.
  - b. 14U shall not move up to any higher classification. 15 Only may move up to the 16 Only classification and 16 Only may move up to the 18U classification. Players using the player

movement rule will be allowed to move up and down for a maximum of eight (8) games per Regular season.

- c. Player movement is only permitted for injuries or to give players an opportunity to play at the next level. A player shall not be moved up if all your roster players, 18 skaters and 2 goalies, will be present for the game. Movement is not permitted to replace a player serving a Misconduct or Match penalty.
- e. Players exercising this option will not have a 72-hour waiting period and will not need to be released from one team and added to the other team they are moving to.
- f. Player movement will be allowed up to December 23 of the current playing season. Player movement will be allowed to fill spots of players that move up to a Junior team until the date established by USA Hockey each year.
- g. Player movement is allowed to USHL, NAHL Junior teams and USA Hockey NTDP programs. This movement is allowed until a date that is established by USA Hockey each year.
- h. For player movement tracking, an individual appointed by the State Playoff Committee Chair will be assigned to the Tier 1 category. Teams will submit to this individual the Player Movement Form every time every time a player moves up. This will track how many games an individual player has moved up. Coaches who do not report player movement or exceed the maximum number of moves will be subject to disciplinary actions and suspension of up to one year.

8. Limiting Coach Movement Among Tier 1 Teams

Definition: Team personnel are defined as and include Coaches, Managers, Advisers, "Influencers" or any other administrative personnel who have participated in the routine operation of the team or organization in the previous (IE: For the 2024-25 season that would mean the 2023 – 24 regular season and the spring 2024 season) or current regular season.

- a. No more than one (1) Team personnel from a MAHA Tier 1 organization may move to a different MAHA Tier I organization in a team capacity at an age category that includes players from the team in which they participated in the previous season. Under this rule, said personnel may move organizations with only their own child(ren).
- b. Any inquiries received by a MAHA Tier I organization, from personnel currently serving under a different MAHA Tier I organization, for the purposes of seeking future opportunities with the organization contacted should be immediately reported to the Tier I Director of the inquirer's MAHA Tier I organization. Conversations should be documented between both Tier I Directors, and no resolutions agreed upon by the Directors may violate the movement criteria.
- c. In an instance where the above movement criteria may have been violated, The State Playoff Committee shall investigate and may choose to hold an administrative action process under USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
  - 1) Any parties found responsible for violation of the movement criteria as determined by the State Playoff Committee, shall be suspended, at minimum, for the remainder of the season.
- d. Any exceptions to this rule need to be submitted and forwarded with recommendations by the Tier 1 committee and approved by the State Playoff Committee.

9. All teams playing in the classification/category are automatically entered and required to participate in the MAHA State Playoffs. Furthermore, said teams must also participate in Nationals if the team is in a National-bound classification.

10. Tryouts for Tier I and AAA Youth Teams

- a. No Tier I team may recruit or solicit players, offer contracts, hold tryouts, conditioning skate, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment or player evaluation until the specific date outlined below:
- b.
  - 1). All teams in National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin tryouts until 48 hours after the completion of the National Tournament for their respective age classification.
  - 2). All Teams in Tier I (Non-National Bound) categories and all Tier II (A/AA) categories for the current season (not post season) shall not begin POST SEASON (Spring) tryouts until after 4 pm on the Monday following the conclusion of the final State Tournament games of all age brackets and categories.
  - 3). All teams in Tier II (A/AA) Non-National bound categories may begin tryouts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May for all REGULAR SEASON (Fall/Winter) teams.
  - 4). All Teams in the Tier I (Non-National Bound), may begin tryouts the first Monday in May for all regular season (fall/winter).

11. Teams at the 16U Tier 1 hockey classification will only be able to roster players in the second birth year of classification (16 year old players only).

B. 14U - 18U Tier II Category and AA Division (Note: in the 16 and Under Age Classification, Tier II is "A") and 10U – 12U Travel Category and AA Division.

1. The Tier II category and the Travel Category AA Divisions are the next level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category include teams which plays in a declared Tier II or Travel AA league or any team playing an independent schedule, registered as a Tier II or Travel AA team. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U. The 14U, 16U and 18U age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Youth 10U and 12U age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. 10U-14U classification teams shall have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered
3. Any team in the youth 16U or 18U age classification shall be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of-District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residency Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player but may submit an exception where applicable.
4. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closet to their residence based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.

5. Teams rostered under this age, division, and category shall not play more than 30% of their games against Tier 1 opponents. Coaches and managers found in violation of this rule shall have a hearing with a suspension no more than one (1) year.
6. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.,D.)
7. At the 14U classification, no team may roster any player 12 years of age or under, match USA Hockey Rules about national-bound divisions
8. A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own Association or District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. For a non-National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team category/division. For the National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a lower category team.
9. A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury to the regular goalie.
10. Tryouts for Tier II and Travel AA Youth Teams.

No Tier II or Travel AA team may recruit or solicit players, offer contracts, hold tryouts, conditioning skate, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment or player evaluation until the specific date outlined below:

- a. All teams in National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin tryouts until 48 hours after the completion of the National Tournament for their respective age classification.
- b. All teams in Travel (A/AA) non-National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin POST Season (Spring) tryouts until after 4 pm on the Monday following the conclusion of the final State Tournament games of ALL age brackets and categories.
- c. All teams in Travel (A/AA) non-National bound categories may begin tryouts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May for all REGULAR SEASON (Fall/Winter) teams.

**C. 10U - 18U Travel Category and A Division.**

1. The Travel category is a level of select hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category include teams which play in a declared Travel A Division league or any team playing an independent schedule, registered as a Travel A team. The recognized Youth classifications shall be the Youth 9U, 11U, and 13U age classifications. The Travel category will be the A Division. Teams in this classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. A 14 and under, 12 and under and 10 and under team in this classification shall not have players who are in their last year of eligibility. In the (Midget) 15/16 classification, no players from the (Midget) 17/18 classification are allowed.
3. May have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered. In the 16U (Midget) classification teams will be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residence Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player, but may submit an exception where applicable.

4. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closest to their residence based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.
5. Teams may not play more than 30% of their games against Tier I (AAA) teams
6. If no A league is available, teams may apply to the District Council and State Playoff Committee for authorization to participate in a Tier II league without losing their A status for District/State Playoffs.
7. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.D.e.)
8. A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own Association or District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. For a non-National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team category/division.
9. A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury to the regular goalie.
10. Each Association and team must notify their District Council in writing of their intent to enter the State Playoffs no later than November 1.
11. Tryouts for Travel Category and A Division Youth Teams.  
No Tier II team may recruit or solicit players, offer contracts, hold tryouts, conditioning skate, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment or player evaluation until the specific date outlined below:
  - a. All teams in Tier II (A/AA) non-National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin POST Season (Spring) tryouts until after 4 pm on the Monday following the conclusion of the final State Tournament games of ALL age brackets and categories.
  - b. All teams in Tier II (A/AA) non-National bound categories may begin tryouts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May for all REGULAR SEASON (Fall/Winter) teams.

**D. 10U - 18U Tier III Category and B & BB Division.**

1. The Tier III category is a recreational travel level of hockey in Michigan determined by a draft. Teams in this category include teams which plays in a declared Tier III league or any team playing an independent schedule, registered as a Tier III team. The recognized Youth classifications shall be the Youth 10U, 12U, 14U, 16UB and 18UBB age classifications. The category will be Tier III and the Division will be B or BB (18U only). Teams in this classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. To remain eligible for Districts and States Playoffs, teams may not play more than 30% of their games against teams in a higher category and/or age classification.
3. Tier III Category and B & BB divisions are teams with players chosen through an open draft. To qualify for District and State Playoffs, teams in the B or BB classification must adhere to the following draft system.

- 4 Association draft rules must be submitted to the District Council Chairperson by August 15th of the current season. These rules must detail how B or BB teams are to be formed within the Association. The District Council shall determine if Association draft rules conform to the requirements contained herein.
  - a. Each team may protect a maximum of one (1) player prior to the start of the player draft.
  - b. Parental requests pertaining to not playing for a specific coach, for transportation reasons or twin sibling reason must be submitted in writing by the parent(s) to the Association prior to the draft. These requests may or may not be honored based on the Association's draft rules, but all requests must be administered on a consistent basis.
  - c. The Association must continue drafting until all available players are drafted to teams.
  - d. Associations with single entry B or BB teams must certify in writing that said players were taken on a first come basis. The formation of single-entry teams must be certified valid by their respective District Council.
    - 1) Associations that did not have a team or fielded a single-entry team in this division the previous regular season must provide evidence of open draft skates and/or registration. This shall be done by publishing the dates and times on a MAHA District website, or in a local newspaper or routine hockey publications at least two weeks prior to the first draft skate. A copy of this must be submitted to the District Chair prior to the draft skate and/or registration.
  - e. Dates, times, and locations of all Association drafts shall be submitted to the District Council Chairperson a minimum of two weeks prior to the draft. The draft shall be monitored by a member of the District Council or Officer of the MAHA.
  - f. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.D.e).
  - g. Within a single Association, in the 12U,14U,16UB, and 18UBB classifications only, goalies are allowed to participate on more than one team in the same classification or one age classification higher.
- 5 A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. The substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team classification category/division.
  - a. A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury or illness to the regular goalie
- 6 Tier III Category and B & BB Division players are allowed to dual roster and participate on Tournament Teams for tournaments if they meet the following criteria:
  - a. Teams can be created, not to exceed 20 players (18 skaters and 2 goalies), all players must be currently on a regular season House/Rec. approved roster.
  - b. Tournament teams must provide a USA Hockey 1T roster and all necessary paperwork to an Associate Registrar for certification 72 hours before first scheduled game.
  - c. Team must turn in the completed MAHA Pilot Program Roster Form along with copies of the current rosters the players are on. Regular season coaches must give approval for participation on the form.
  - d. If players and coaches are not on a current roster, they must meet all the requirements to be placed on the roster.

- e. Tournament teams would be designated A or AA teams depending on the age level of the players. (Teams with the majority of the player's ages being in the first year of that division would be allowed to participate in the A division if they choose. Teams with the majority of the players ages being in the second year of that division would be designated AA).
- f. These players will continue to participate as a member of their teams remembering a player cannot play more than two games in any single day. Regular season and Tournament Teams cannot participate in the same tournament.
- g. Failure to follow the above rules will subject the tournament team head coach to MAHA disciplinary action.
- h. Tournament teams are not eligible for MAHA District competition.

7 All (B) and (BB) teams needing a ruling or exception to make the team eligible to play in leagues, tournaments, Districts, and States must submit their requests (through their District Councils first) to the State Playoff Committee for disposition. Teams requesting an exception may participate until the State playoff committee has made its decision.

8. Each Association and team must notify their District Council in writing of their intent to enter the State Playoffs no later than November 1. 16u and 18uBB must notify their District Council in writing of their intent to enter the State Playoffs no later than December 15

#### E. 8U & 6U Age Classification.

- 1. As a best practice, it is recommended that all Associations incorporate the ADM practice curriculum and initiatives into their 6U & 8U Player Development practice program.
- 2. All games and scrimmages at 6U & 8U classification shall be played either cross-ice or half-ice.
- 3. No Youth team which has a majority of youth eight (8) and under players may register or participate as a regular league member of another (higher) classification.
- 4. In Cross-Ice / Half-Ice games, the MAHA encourages the use of referees as a training ground for young referees.
- 5. Each Association and team must notify their District Council in writing of their intent to enter the State Playoffs no later than January 1.

#### F. USA Hockey High School Classification.

- 1. Restricted to amateurs who are enrolled as full-time students (grades 9-12), and under 20 years of age on December 31 of the Playing Season. Eligibility shall not exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with the player's freshman year (9th grade).
- 2. For home-schooled students, the term "attend" shall mean that the student is enrolled at a high school and is designated as carrying sufficient credits to be considered a full time-student for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the high school upon the student's completing and passing the courses. The school which enrolls the student shall be exclusively responsible to verify the student's compliance with all of the eligibility requirements.

Clarification: Those High School students graduating mid-year are no longer full-time students and, therefore, are not eligible to play High School hockey, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time as defined by the school

- 3. High School Varsity Division And/or Prep School Division- (male and female teams) include two types of teams:



- a. Division 1 (Pure teams) are community based public high schools, private schools drawing their students exclusively from a local metropolitan area (excluding any school that boards players), or a combined team
- b. Division 2 (Combined teams) is formed by players from multiple schools from a local metropolitan area. Combined teams may form using the same school districts as co-op programs that exist within MHSAA, but that is not a requirement.
- 4. A Youth/girls' team registered as a high school team may roster 30 players, but can dress only 20 players, including goaltender(s), for a game.
- 5. A USA Hockey rostered team may play high school/prep/JV hockey teams rostered with and recognized by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). This allows for play with high school varsity/prep school/ Junior Varsity (JV) teams during the school winter session only: November 1 to March 1 of the current season. All prep and JV teams representing their MHSAA school are required to carry a letter from their school administration confirming their permission to participate against MAHA rostered teams.
- 6. Teams in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games - Refer to (Rule III.D.b)

G. Non-Varsity/JV High School Division Classifications.

- 1. Non-Varsity/JV High School Division 1 - high school and prep school Club or non-varsity teams consisting of full-time students grades 9 - 12 attending the same high school or prep school or full-time students that are eligible to play sanctioned high school varsity sports at that school.
- 2. Non-Varsity/JV High School Division 2 – high school and non-varsity teams consisting of full-time students attending high school / prep school grades 9 – 12.
- 3. If no Non-Varsity/JV High School league is available, teams may apply to the District Council and State Playoff Committee for authorization to participate in a Tier II league without losing their High School status for State Playoffs.
- 4. Division 2 teams may not have more than six (6) players who reside outside the MAHA District in which the team is registered. If the player is out of district but is within the school district from which the majority of the team's players come from that player is not considered out of district. Division1 has no out of district restriction.
- 5. Non-Varsity High School Division teams may roster up to 25 players between September 1 and November 14 each season. After November 15, those teams with 20 or more players on their roster would not be able to add any additional players. Any team that falls below 20 could add additional players to bring their team up to 20 players. A team may only dress 20 players for any game, of which only 18 may be skaters, per USA Hockey rules.
- 6. All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season- (Rule III,D.b)
- 7. Each team must notify their District Council of their intent to enter the State Playoffs by the December State Playoff Committee meeting.

## **V. Girls Age & Division Classifications**

### **A. Girls 14U-19U Tier 1 Category AAA Division and 10U – 12U Travel Category AAA Division.**

1. The Tier I category is the highest level of competitive hockey for girls in Michigan. Teams in these categories are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Girls classifications shall be the 11 & 12, 13 & 14, 15 & 16 and 17-19 age classifications. The 13 & 14, 15 & 16 and 17-19 age classifications are national bound classifications, and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Girls 11 & 12 classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. Beginning at the 14U age group at the Girls' Tier 1 and Girls' Tier II levels, to be able to roster a team there shall have been a Tier 1, Tier II or Tier III team in the Association or Club one age classification younger or in the same age group in the previous regular hockey season. When starting a 12U team there is no requirement for an Association or Club to have had a team in the previous season at the age group below. For a 14U team to form, a 12U or 14U team must have been in place the previous year. For a 16U team to form, a 14U or 16U team must have been in place the previous season. For a 19U team to form, a 19U or 16U team must have been in place the previous season. An Association or Club that wants to form a Girls team, yet does not meet the previous year team requirement, can petition the MAHA Girls/Women's Committee for an exception, and must demonstrate that the team formation is not creating negative consequences for Girls teams in other Associations or Clubs.
3. Only approved Tier I teams and organizations shall be allowed to advertise as Tier I, AAA, elite or similar designation for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier I team.
4. Teams participate in a Tier 1 MAHA/USA Hockey sanctioned league that may involve participation with similar teams from Michigan and from across the country.
5. No player 12 years of age or younger (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season) is eligible to play on a team eligible to compete in the District or National Championships or playoffs leading thereto.
6. Per USA Hockey Rule E Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria, the maximum number of Tier I teams in Michigan for a period of September 1st through August 31st each year will be identified through the following process:
7. Applications for Tier 1 recognition must be sent to the Chairperson of the Girls'/Women's Committee for consideration not later than November 1st of the year prior to the season being applied for (i.e.: November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024 for the 2024-25 season). The Girls'/Women's Sub-Committee will make its recommendation to the MAHA Executive Committee which will make a final decision no later than the Annual Winter meeting of the preceding season.
  - a. Each organization is limited to one Tier I team at each age classification.
  - b. Tier I organizations/teams will have to reapply each year to maintain their Tier I status. Returning organizations/teams will have preference but will not be guaranteed Tier I status each year.
  - c. It is highly recommended that an organization have teams at all of the following recognized Tier I levels: G19U, G16U, G14U, and G12U. Organizations wishing to apply without a full complement of Tier I teams may do so but are recommended to demonstrate a sustainable program working towards having Tier I teams at all the recognized levels.

- d. Only teams approved by the Executive Committee will be allowed to roster as Tier 1 or AAA teams in Michigan.
  - e. Each MAHA Tier I team must play the other MAHA Tier I teams in their age classification two (2) games per season: one (1) home; one (1) away; excluding tournaments.
  - f. Teams not approved by the State Playoff Committee may not advertise as Tier I, elite, or similar designation for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier I team.
8. Girls Tier I teams are limited to the following number of out-of-state or import players: 12U-2, 14U-2, 16U-3, 19U-6. An import player is an out of state player that lives in Michigan as outlined in the Michigan residency policy.
  9. Teams in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.B.e)
  10. Players can participate in only one age classification higher than player's actual birth year classification. Requests for a one-year waiver shall be submitted to the State Playoff Committee. Waivers for exception shall be submitted for approval if waivers are needed for Associations to field a single-entry team. However, at the 14U classification, no team may roster any player 12 years of age or under.
  11. Teams shall be registered in the age classification in which they participate for league play.
  12. Each MAHA Tier 1 organization (12, 14, 16 and 19U girls) must play the other Tier I organizations excluding tournaments, which determines seeding for the MAHA State Playoffs. Teams must play each other three (3) times within their respective age / division classification. Each team is required to play one (1) home game, one (1) away game, and one (1) additional game. Schedules and standings will be posted on the MAHA website. The Tier I clubs will meet prior to the beginning of the season with the MAHA Vice President of Girl's and Women to create the administrative logistics (i.e.: game playing rules, critical dates, home team for third games, protesting, standing tie breaker, etc.).
  13. In the Tier 1 category shown below, player movement will be allowed as follows:
    - a. Players can only move within their own organization.
    - b. 14U may move up to 16U; 16U may move up to 19U. Players using the player movement rule will be allowed to move up and down for a maximum of 8 games per regular season.
    - c. Player movement is only permitted for injuries or to give a player an opportunity to play at the next level. A player shall not be moved up if all of your rostered players, 18 skaters and 2 goalies, will be present for the game. Movement is not permitted to replace a player serving a Misconduct or Match penalty.
    - d. Players exercising this option will not have a 72-hour waiting period, will not need to be released from one team and added to the other team they are moving to.
    - e. Player movement will be allowed up to December 23 of the current playing season.
    - f. For player movement tracking, an individual appointed by the State Playoff Committee Chair will be assigned to the Tier 1 category. Teams will submit players moving up and down to this individual. This individual will track how many games an individual player has moved up. Coaches who do not report player movement or exceed the maximum number of moves will be subject to disciplinary actions and suspension of up to one year.

14. All teams playing in this classification/category are automatically entered and required to participate in the MAHA State Playoffs. Furthermore, said teams must also participate in Nationals if the team is in a National-bound classification.

15. Tryouts for Tier I Youth Teams

Teams may hold open tryouts. Each Association/organization may field no more than one team at each age level that can advance to a National Championship. No player shall be solicited nor shall the possibility of playing for a Tier 1 team be discussed with any player, prior to the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Tournaments except an existing Tier 1 player for the particular Tier 1 team and or Organization for which that player played during the existing season and then only by that Tier 1 Organization or team. No Tier I or Travel AAA team may recruit or solicit players, offer contracts, hold tryouts, conditioning skate, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment or player evaluation until the specific date outlined below:

- a. All teams in National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin tryouts until 48 hours after the completion of the National Tournament for their respective age classification.
- b. All teams in AAA non-National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin POST Season (Spring) tryouts until after 4 pm on the Monday following the conclusion of the final State Tournament games of ALL age brackets and categories.
- c. All teams in AAA non-National bound categories may begin tryouts on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in May for all REGULAR SEASON (Fall/Winter) teams.

B. 14U - 19U Girls Tier II Category AA Division and 10U – 12U Travel Category AA Division.

1. This level is the intermediate competitive classification and is intended to provide a uniform competitive experience for Association based teams that are not able to compete at the Tier 1 or Travel AAA level. The recognized Girls classifications shall be the 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U age classifications. The 14U, 16U and 19U age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Girls 10U, and 12U classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. Beginning at the 14U age group at the Girls' Tier 1 and Girls' Tier II levels, to be able to roster a team there shall have been a Tier 1, Tier II or Tier III team in the Association or Club one age classification younger or in the same age group in the previous regular hockey season. When starting a 10U or 12U team there is no requirement for an Association or Club to have had a team in the previous season at the age group below. For a 14U team to form, a 12U or 14U team must have been in place the previous year. For a 16U team to form, a 14U or 16U team must have been in place the previous season. For a 19U team to form, a 19U or 16U team must have been in place the previous season. An Association or Club that wants to form a Girls team, yet does not meet the previous year team requirement, can petition the MAHA Girls/Women's Committee for an exception, and must demonstrate that the team formation is not creating negative consequences for Girls teams in other Associations or Clubs.
3. Teams participate in a MAHA/USA Hockey Sanctioned Tier II or Travel AA league or register as Tier II or Travel AA team.

4. These teams may enter the State tournament at the Tier II or Travel AA level. They must comply with all State eligibility rules and submit an intent to enter the Tier II or Travel AA state tournament.
  - a. Teams registered in this age, category, and division that play more than 30% of their games against Tier I opponents shall be ineligible for State Playoffs in any classification. Coaches and managers found in violation of this rule shall have a recommended suspension of no more than one (1) year.
5. No player 12 years of age or younger (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season) is eligible to play on a team eligible to compete in the District or National Championships or playoffs leading thereto.
6. A team cannot have more than three (3) out of state or import players (example: 1 import + 2 out of State = Maximum number allowed). An import player is an out of state player that lives in Michigan with a Michigan address whose parents have assigned guardianship to a family in Michigan. Import players must produce documentation from school/district they are attending.
7. All teams in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III,A,e)
8. Players can participate in only one age classification higher than player's actual birth year classification. Requests for a one year waiver shall be submitted to the State Playoff Committee.
9. Teams shall be registered in the age classification in which they participate for league play.
10. Girls Rostering Exception
  - a. Female players (ages 19 & under) may roster either with a youth team or with a girls' team by following the rostering procedures for that classification. Additionally, under the circumstances below a female player may petition to dual roster:
    - 2) When the female player's intent is to play for her youth team but would also like to participate with a rostered girls' team for tournament play (limited to two tournaments per season up to 12/31 of the current season, excluding a State tournament). A female player who is on a youth Tier II primary (travel) roster cannot dual roster on a Tier III girls' team for 2 tournaments. Female players who wish to dual roster under this condition must request permission to roster with the girl's team by notifying the Vice-President of Girls/Women in writing and provide a letter of support from the coach of her youth team and the coach of the girl's team prior to the request being considered by the MAHA Girls/Women Committee. The committee's written approval must be presented to the District Associate Registrar(s) at the time of rostering on the girl's team. All games played by the female player in the aforementioned circumstances will be included in the total game count as it applies to all Youth classifications.
    - 2) A female player playing on a Youth Tier III team may dual roster on a girl's Tier III team within the same Association. In the absence of a girls team in their Youth B team Association a female player may roster on a girls Tier III team that is offered in another local Association. Under these circumstances the female player is limited to 10 games (played prior to 12/31 of the current season) on the girls team. These games shall not include State playoffs.

- 3) A female player registered on a Girls Tier III team in an Association that has two or more such teams at an age level may also roster on a second Girls Recreational "Development" team from the same Association. The Development team must be comprised only of players from the Girls Tier III teams in the Association and the team shall not be formed by a tryout process. The Development team is limited to a maximum of 20 games and the games played will be included in the game count as it applies to all girls' classifications.
- b. Players who wish to dual roster under the above conditions must notify the Girls'/Women's Vice President in writing and provide a letter of support from both the youth team coach and the girls' team coach prior to the request getting consideration by the MAHA Women's Committee. Players must request dual rostering permission before rostering with their second team. The dual rostered player must present the District Associate Registrar(s) with the Committee's written approval at the time of her registration.

#### 11. Tryouts for Girls Tier II and Travel AA Teams

- a. These teams hold open tryouts.
  - b. A second team from a Tier 1 Organization at any age level will be recognized as Tier II providing, they do not in any way give the appearance of being Tier 1 including tryouts.
  - c. No Tier II or Travel AA team may recruit or solicit players, offer contracts, hold tryouts, conditioning skate, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment or player evaluation until the specific date outlined below:
    - 1) All teams in National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin tryouts until 48 hours after the completion of the National Tournament for their respective age classification
    - 2) All teams in Travel AA non-National bound categories for the current season (not post season), shall not begin POST Season (Spring) tryouts until after 4 pm on the Monday following the conclusion of the final State Tournament games of ALL age brackets and categories.
    - 3) All teams in Travel AA non-National bound categories may begin tryouts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May for all regular season (Fall/Winter) games.
12. Exceptions: Any exceptions to the rules outlined in Section V will be handled by the Girls/Women's Committee, except where noted within the rule itself.

#### C. 10U - 19U Girls Tier III.

1. This level is a recreational Tier. It is intended as an introduction level for Associations/Clubs that are offering a girl's program in order to provide skill development in a recreational setting. The recognized Girls classifications shall be the 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U age classifications. Teams in this classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. These teams would be involved in a house/ recreational league comprised of teams in which the level of play is deemed house/ recreational.
3. If more than one team is formed within an Association at any age a draft process shall be used to create fair and balanced teams as used in the Youth classification.
4. Single entry teams must take players on a first come first serve basis.

5. Teams of a Tier III classification may enter the State tournament (if applicable) at the Tier III level only.
6. Teams in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games - Refer to (Rule III,A,e)
7. Teams may not play more than 30% of their games against teams in higher classifications. Coaches and managers found in violation of this rule shall have a recommended suspension of no more than one (1) year.
8. Within a single Association, in the Girls Tier III classification only, goalies are allowed to participate on more than one team in the same classification or one age classification higher under the following conditions:
  - a. at the draft, there are not enough goalies to draft one per team.
  - b. or there is a severe injury to the only goalie on a team.
  - c. or the only goalie on the team is lost to a high school team.
  - d. This only applies to players registering and playing in the Girls Tier III classification. Using a Tier 1 or Tier II goalie from a lower age classification is not allowed.
9. Each team must submit their Intent to Enter the State Playoffs no later than November 1 via the MAHA website.

10. Girls Rostering Exception

Female players (ages 19 & under) may roster either with a youth team or with a girls' team by following the rostering procedures for that classification. Additionally, under the circumstances below a female player may petition to dual roster:

- a. When the female player's intent is to play for her youth team but would also like to participate with a rostered girls' team for tournament play (limited to two tournaments per season prior to December 31). Female players who wish to dual roster under this condition must request permission to roster with the girl's team by notifying the Vice-President of Girls/Women in writing and provide a letter of support from the coach of her youth team and the coach of the girl's team prior to the request being considered by the MAHA Girls/Women Committee. The committee's written approval must be presented to the District Associate Registrar(s) at the time of rostering on the girl's team. All games played by the female player in the aforementioned circumstances will be included in the total game count as it applies to all Youth classifications.
- b. A female player playing on a Youth Tier III team may dual roster on a girl's Tier III team within the same Association. In the absence of a girls team in their Youth Association a female player may roster on a girls Tier III team that is offered in another local Association. Under these circumstances the female player is limited to 10 games on the girls team and the games played will be included in the game count as it applies for all Youth classifications. These games shall not include State playoffs.
- c. A female player registered on a Girls Tier III team in an Association that has two or more such teams at an age level may also roster on a second Girls Recreational "Development" team from the same Association. The Development team must be comprised only of players from the Girls Tier III teams in the Association and the team shall not be formed by a tryout process. The Development team is limited to a maximum of 20 games and the games played will be included in the game count as it applies to all girls' classifications.
- d. Players who wish to dual roster under the above conditions must notify the Girls'/Women's Vice President in writing and provide a letter of support from both the

youth team coach and the girls' team coach prior to the request getting consideration by the MAHA Women's Committee. Players must request dual rostering permission before rostering with their second team. The dual rostered player must present the District Associate Registrar(s) with the Committee's written approval at the time of her registration.

D. Exceptions: Any exceptions to the rules outlined in Section V will be handles by the Girls Committee, except where noted within the rule itself.

## **VI. Adult Classifications (Men's and Women's)**

### **A. Adult USA Checking.**

1. Open to all U.S. citizens; non-U.S. residents are eligible on a limited basis. Excludes players that have participated during the current season at any elite professional level (NHL, AHL, and European) or on an NCAA Division I and/or III team. Players that have participated in the following leagues before November 30 of the current season are eligible on a limited basis: (ECHL, CHL, IHL, UHL, SPHL, AAHA, and any Major Junior (other leagues may apply). Players that participated during the current season at any level of the ACHA (American Collegiate Hockey Association) are eligible for this classification. All players must be 18 years of age or older by December 31 of the current season. However, only 25% of an Adult U.S. registered team may be under the age of 20 unless approved by the Vice President, Adult Council Chair. No games are allowed without an approved roster.

### **B. Adult Non-Checking.**

1. Unrestricted as to citizenship, Players shall be 18 years of age or older.
2. Classifications include: 18 and over, 30 and Over

## **VII. COACHING REQUIREMENTS**

1. All teams rostered with the MAHA and USA Hockey must have a head coach and team manager in good standing with the MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams must have a rostered head coach, assistant coach, or team manager present at all team functions who is responsible for the conduct of all team personnel. The Head Coach of each team must be so designated on the roster at the time of each team's registration. Each team shall designate on the scoresheet a Head Coach prior to the start of the game. The Head Coach shall be in control of and responsible for the actions of all team personnel, including players.
2. Coaches and managers must be rostered at the same time as the players. Teams may roster additional team officials at any time. See Section II., Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams for requirements. Coaches and Managers can only be rostered on one team in an age/division classification at a time; *example*, rostering with a 13U A and 14U B is acceptable since these are different divisions.
3. Any Association or Club team with a head coach, assistant coach, or manager that formerly coached or managed in another Association or Club shall not be restricted on the amount of individuals from their preceding regular or post season team(s) pending the head coach, assistant coach, or manager has a signed letter from both the preceding and new association/club approving the move; submit both letters to the affected district(s); and receive approval from said district(s).

Where the above criteria are not met, the head coach, assistant coach, or manager that formerly coached or managed in another Association or Club shall not have a team with more



than 50% of its players who played on a team coached or managed by one or more of those individuals during the preceding regular or post season.

#### 4. Coaching Registration

- A. All ice hockey coaches as well as instructors of USA Hockey programs shall be registered annually as individual Participants of USA Hockey for the current season (before the start of the season) in order to be eligible to coach/instruct in any regular-season activities (practices, clinics, games, tournaments, tryouts, etc.), state, district, regional playoff, or national championships.
- B. Those volunteers or employees who assist with helping disabled hockey teams on-ice (i.e. interpreters, pushers, on-ice mentors, etc.) must be properly registered with USA Hockey as volunteers but are not required to attend a CEP clinic and otherwise comply with these rules and regulations. It shall be permissible to allow an interpreter that has registered with USA Hockey as a volunteer and completed applicable background screens and SafeSport training to assist deaf/hard of hearing players or coaches on ice in practices and on the bench during games, without requiring such person complete any CEP requirements.
- C. All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18 & Under and below, high school, girls 19 & under and below, and disabled programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops. Failure to comply will result in a 30 day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs.

#### 5. Coaching Education Requirements.

- A. Required Coaching Education Program Levels for Ice Hockey: All coaches must have the required certification level by January 1 of the current season. Districts and/or Affiliates may not impose earlier deadlines for coaches to attend a clinic prior to December 31.
  - (a) All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at the 6U/8U Level if coaching Learn to Skate (LTS), Learn to Play (LTP), 6U/8U classification or a Level 1 if they are coaching 10U classification and above.

Coaches at the 6U/8U Level do not need to progress any further until one of the following occurs:

1. The coach moves up to another age classification above 8U, or
2. The coach returns to 6U/8U for the fifth consecutive season and the level is now expired.

Coaches at the 6U/8U must take the 6U/8U refresher education every five years if they are continuing to coach at 6U/8U classification or LTS/LTP.

Coaches in 6U/8U should not take Level 1 until they start coaching at the 10U classification and above level.

As of the 2025-26 season, Level 1 coaches must continue their education with a coaching clinic each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 4. Coaches of disabled hockey, may remain at Level 1 or other certification level, even if expired, until such time as they are coaching any older age level of play or something other than disabled hockey.

A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year. This does not include continuing education clinics or modules. The 6U/8U clinic can be taken by coaches that are Level 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 for continuing education credit.

Once Level 4 is achieved, subject to the Grandfather Clause set forth in paragraph (d) below, coaches will need to have completed 5 credit hours of continuing education prior to the expiration of their level, and if renewed within each subsequent three-year period or in the alternative complete their Level 5 classification.

Once Level 5 is achieved, coaches will need to have completed 5 credit hours of continuing education prior to the expiration of their level and within each subsequent four-year period thereafter [as outlined in Paragraph (c) below].

- (b) In addition to the training in paragraph (a) above, coaches must also complete online age-specific training modules specific to the level of play they are coaching, if they have not already taken that module. This requirement applies to all coaches at all levels, 6U/8U through 5. Coaches may complete more than one age-specific module in any given season. As of the 2023-24 season, all coaches must complete the Foundations for Player Development and the age-specific modules prior to participating with the team.
- (c) Effective in the 2022-23 season, Level 4 coaching certifications are valid for three (3) seasons, and Level 5 coaching certifications are valid for four (4) seasons, each as indicated by an expiration date.

(d) Grandfather Clause

For those coaches who received Level 4 or Level 5 PRIOR TO January 1, 2021, and who are coaching or begin to coach after this date, any Tier I or Tier II teams will be required to do continuing education as required in (c) above.

Coaches who received a Level 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 prior to January 1, 2025, and who are coaching after this date, may coach at the 6U/8U classification or LTS/LTP with their current level, even if expired.

If a 6U/8U coach takes a higher level of education after January 1, 2025, they are no longer grandfathered in at the 6U/8U level and must remain current in education regardless of what age classification they are coaching.

(e) Previous/Expired Certifications

Coaches with any expired certification will retain their previous certification levels provided the certification can be verified. Coaches may re-enter the certification system at that previous level and be subject to the certification guidelines in (a) through (c) above and/or (f) below.

(f) Continuing Education (CE) Accumulation and Expiration

The USA Hockey clinic listings will indicate all continuing education offerings and the credit value of each. The Coaching Education Program retains the responsibility for defining continuing education credit values, including clinic or online course work.

Coaches that are Level 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 may accumulate continuing education credits and will remain available for a maximum of eight years since completed, subject to the Level 4 and Level 5 credit hour expiration rules set forth below.

Coaches at the 6U/8U Level will be able to take continuing education but will not be able to bank credit hours.

Once a Level 4 or 5 coach reaches their expiration date, all credits will be applied from their account and if they have their five credits of continuing education their certification will renew.

Any credits above the five needed to recertify their Level 4 or 5 will be erased from their account.

6. 2025-26 CEP AGE PROGRESSION GUIDELINES

- A. If coaching 6U/8U only – must attend a 6U/8U Clinic and 6U/8U Refresher Every 5 years
- B. If coaching a 6U/8U and 10U or Older Team – must attend 6U/8U clinic or Level 1 Clinic
- C. If coaching a 10U or Older – must attend a Level 1 Clinic in year 1. In year 2, must attend a Level 2 clinic. In year 3, must attend a level 3 clinic. In year 4, must attend a Level 4 clinic and 5CE Credits Every 3 Years. If a coach moved to Level 5, must attend a Level 5 Clinic and 5CE Credits Every 4 years.

7. Evidence of Level.

- a. It is the responsibility of the local Association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. All coaches have until December 31 of the current season, or earlier date as established by the MAHA, to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic. All coaches must complete the online age-specific modules PRIOR to rostering with their team in any season.
- b. Prior to the start of each game, all coaches present are required to print their name legibly and sign the designated area of the score sheet in order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the score sheet, for that game.

8. Penalty and Enforcement.

Any coach not in possession of these certification requirements will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season. Districts and/or affiliates are required to uphold this penalty. It will be the responsibility of the local association registering the team to enforce the national policy.

## 9. Student Coaches.

### a. Qualifications.

- 1) A player age 13 through 17 who is currently properly registered with USA Hockey may serve as a Student Coach.
- 2) Must attend a training session conducted by the local hockey Association or audit a Level 6U/8U clinic or a Level 1 clinic depending on what age classification they are going to coach (not required to pay nor will they receive certification credit).
- 3) Must always be under the supervision of a carded, screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, try-outs and in the locker room.
- 4) May help out at practices, clinics, and try-outs only. (May not participate as a player in scrimmages or games when acting as a Student Coach).
- 5) May not act as a head coach or an assistant coach during practices or games.
- 6) May be on the bench during games with an adult. The Student Coach will count as one of the maximum of four Team Officials allowed on the bench.
- 7) Must wear a helmet with full face shield, neck laceration protection, gloves, and skates while on the ice. Must wear a helmet with full face shield during games while on the bench.
- 8) May only work with players at least one full playing age level below the Student Coach (e.g. a 14U age player may act as a Student Coach at the 12U, 10U, or 8U) except a Student Coach working with players in a disabled hockey program.
- 9) The organization that is using the Student Coach must provide a form indicating the team on which he/she is participating as a Student Coach, and, if applicable, what team he/she is properly registered/rostered as a player. A model form is available on the [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com) website.
- 10) Upon reaching the age of 18, the Student Coach must comply with the MAHA Background Screening Program and meet the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements which will qualify him/her to act as an assistant or head coach.

## 10. Safe Sport and Screening Policy.

All USA Hockey coaches, and instructors (Includes independent contractors) will comply with the USA Hockey Safe Sport and Screening Policies. Failure to comply with the Safe Sport and Screening Policies will result in the forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites, or events under USA Hockey's governance.

## 11. Coaching Ethics Code.

All USA Hockey ice hockey coaches (head and assistant) and instructors must abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code and understand that violations may result in full or partial forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites or events under USA Hockey's governance.

All coaches have an obligation to be familiar with USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct. The USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code can be found online at [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com) under Coaches.

12. No coach, manager, or other team official, connected with a rostered team may directly or indirectly entice, influence, or contact a player on a rostered team without the written approval of the coach and/or manager of that team. Violation of this rule will result in a recommended suspension of not less than one year
13. All ice hockey coaches, instructors, 3rd party coaches, and independent contractors, whether they are on the official roster or not, that participate with registered USA Hockey youth, high school, disabled, girls/women's 19&under and below programs must wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars), with the exception of when a team official is tending to an injured player. Failure to comply will result in a 30-day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs.
14. COACHING DIRECTOR (Formerly Association Coaching Education (A.C.E. Director).
  - a. The USA Hockey Michigan Coach-in-Chief shall appoint an Associate Coach-in-Chief (Michigan Coaching Director) whose responsibility will be to assist and train Association Hockey Directors (also known as Coaching Director).
  - b. His/Her duties shall be, but not limited to:
    - 1) Serve as the communication link between the Coaching Education Program and the local Associations.
    - 2) Ensure that each local Association has an individual in place to serve as the Hockey Director (also known as Coaching Director).
    - 3) Promote age-specific skill development and encourage the implementation of the ADM.
    - 4) Plan and conduct clinics to train Association Hockey Directors.
    - 5) Assist Associations in establishing and maintaining a resource center with USA Hockey materials.
    - 6) Deliver parent education to local Associations with the support of CEP personnel and ADM managers.
    - 7) Shall appoint District Coaching Director, to work with local Associations in the district.

### **VIII. Game Requirements**

1. All USA Hockey Rules and Regulations apply to all games and practices.
2. Definition of a game:

The following conditions shall constitute a valid game:

  - a. When two registered teams occupy the same ice surface for the purpose of competitive play.
  - b. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods of 10 minutes stopped time or 15 minutes running time, except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. The game must be officiated by registered referees and with a completed and signed score sheet.
  - c. Once the teams commence play, this session counts toward the maximum game count for both teams regardless of the minutes played. (Completion of a game stopped due to a curfew only counts as one game in total.)
3. The following conditions shall constitute an invalid game:

- a. When two registered teams occupy the same ice surface and compete without registered referees, with or without the clock and scoreboard, with or without coaches on the ice and without a completed/signed score sheet. Coaches and players for both teams are subject to suspension under rules II., B., 1 and 2. This session does count toward the maximum game count for each team.
4. This rule is not intended to prohibit controlled practice sessions between teams in a single Association/Club only under the following circumstances: 1) an Association assigned split ice practice; 2) coaches are on the ice and using this as a teaching situation; 3) this takes place during the final portion of the practice session, not to exceed 15 minutes. This session does not count toward the maximum game count for the teams involved.
5. The authority for monitoring the game count of each team / player shall be vested with the appropriate District Council.
6. The number of games played by any player or team on one day in Michigan shall not be more than two (2) with a minimum of four (4) hours between the finish of the first game and the start of the second. This rule will be waived if a team is competing in both League playoffs and District or State Playoffs on the same day. Teams competing with teams from District 7 and District 8 may have the four-hour rule waived with the consent of each team's District Chairperson due to travel distances. Excludes all Adult games ,leagues, and sanctioned tournaments. The maximum of two (2) games in one day cannot be waived. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a recommended six (6) month suspension of the head coach.
7. All games played in the State of Michigan must utilize a score sheet with space for a team officials' signature and referees printed names and signatures. If the head coach is not present, the person on the bench that is responsible for the team for that game (*i.e.*: assistant coach) must denote themselves as the head coach. If the head coach appears after the start of the game, he/she must sign the score sheet prior to going on the bench and denote that he/she is the head coach.
8. No more than four (4) registered team officials in good standing will be permitted in the vicinity of the players' bench or will be allowed to coach or manage a team. Any violation of this regulation could result in the forfeiting of the game. A score of 0-1 will be recorded on the official game sheet(s) for all games if any game is forfeit.
9. Only players who are dressed and ready to participate in the game shall be identified on the official score sheet. Any player or coach serving a suspension or game misconduct penalty shall be identified by name, team, and jersey number on all copies of the score sheet prior to the start of the game as serving the suspension or game misconduct penalty. Players or coaches serving suspensions or misconducts are not allowed in the vicinity of the player's bench.
10. A registered team shall not play a non-registered team or a team under suspension by the MAHA or USA Hockey. (Reference paragraph V., F., 5.)for allowable play against high school/ prep school varsity teams.)
11. All teams must have available an electronic USA Hockey Roster (the USA Hockey Form 1-T) or a paper copy of the Team Roster Form (USA Form 1-T) at all games. If a team is found not adhering to this rule the head coach shall be referred in writing to the proper District Council for action under Rule II. B.
12. A rostered team in any of the Youth and/or Girl's classifications may not occupy the same ice surface with an Adult team for the purpose of competitive play. Teams may be granted

exceptions via a special event sanction approved by the USA Hockey Risk Manager for Michigan and/or the USA Hockey Registrar for Michigan.

**IX. Rules and Regulations for District and State Playoffs (Refer to the District and State Tournament Book)**

1. Each season, MAHA shall conduct District Playoffs and State Championship Tournaments in the Youth, Girls'/Women's, High School, and Adult age classifications. The Rules and Regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the District and National Championships are set forth in this Article IX. The MAHA State Playoff Committee shall approve a MAHA State Championship Tournament Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the MAHA website on or before September 1 prior to the following year's District and National Championships. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the MAHA or USA Hockey Annual Guide, the State Championship Tournament Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all MAHA District and State Championship Tournaments.
2. Eligibility for District & State Playoffs.
  - a. To be eligible to enter the MAHA District and/or State playoffs, only teams rostered legally in Michigan and conforming to all USA Hockey and MAHA age classification, division classification and Registration Rules and Regulations are eligible to enter District Playoffs. Teams shall only be eligible in the age classification, category, and division in which they play the majority of their games prior to Districts or States.
  - b. All teams are eligible for District Playoffs in the District in which they are legally registered, as defined in paragraph A above. The District Council, being the governing body for the District, shall have and exercise general control and authority over the affairs of the District as defined in MAHA Bylaw #6. The method of selection of eligible teams as candidates for District playoffs shall be determined by the District's Council. All teams will be notified by their District Council, in writing, before September 1, of any changes to the selection process. No notification is required if the selection process remains the same as the previous season, and, shall be considered as an established practice for the current season. A written copy of the selection process shall be kept on file with the District Chairperson.
  - c. Any team may apply to the State Playoff Committee for the granting of an exception if it is specifically allowed for in the MAHA Rules and Regulations. The request for exception must be in writing and it must first be submitted to the District Council by November 15 for the District in which the team is registered. The request for exception must be acted upon by the District Council and its actions evidenced by written endorsement upon the team request. The request must be submitted to the State Playoff Committee for final approval. The decision of the State Playoff Committee is final and cannot be appealed.
3. All players must be active players on the team they are registered with at the time of the District Playoffs, except in the case of an injured player.
4. Number of Games for Eligibility
  - a. In National Bound Divisions, individual players must participate in ten (10) USA Hockey sanctioned games before the earliest of February 1<sup>st</sup> or before the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs with the team for which they will participate in District and State Playoffs. Players on teams in classifications that do not have District Playoffs have



- until their first game of State Playoffs to reach ten (10) games. For all Non-National bound divisions, the number of games is reduced to seven (7).
- b. In order to qualify for State Playoffs, all National Bound teams must play at least seventeen (17) games in its classification, category, and division before the earliest of February 1<sup>st</sup> or before the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs, except for Girl's Classification and Non-National Bound teams, which must play at least fourteen (14) games in their classification, category, and division before February 1st.
  - c. Exceptions to a. or b. may be granted by the State Playoff Committee.
  - d. Teams formed and certified in Classifications approved by MAHA prior to the September 1 season start may have games counted toward fulfilling the 20/10 Youth, 14/10 girls, 10/5 all high school divisions, requirement with the approval of the District Registrar.
5. Authority of MAHA Tournament Directors and Referees
- a. Under the supervision of the State Playoff Committee, in all District and State Playoffs the qualified and designated referees shall have sole authority of and responsibility for the enforcement and interpretation of the playing rules on the ice except as provided herein. The MAHA Director shall have sole authority and responsibility for all off-ice rules and regulations enforcement and interpretation. The Tournament Director shall have the sole authority, with the advice of the referee, to terminate play, determine resurfacing as set forth in these rules, and to decide if a game must be replayed and the manner of replay.
6. Each District will conduct Playoffs to determine the District entry into the State Playoffs. In the event the team representing the host association for States wins the District Playoff, the District Playoff runner-up shall represent the District.
7. Teams participating in Districts, States, and Nationals are required to participate in all games associated with the respective tournaments. This includes, but not limited to, Districts play-in games and State runner-up games. Teams who choose to not continue their participation in games shall have their team officials suspended for a maximum of one year.
8. Exceptions: Any exception to the rules outlined anywhere in Section X will be handled by the State Playoff Committee

## **X. Referee: Duties and Responsibilities**

- 1. It is the responsibility of the local USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief for Michigan to ensure that all referees used have been duly registered.
- 2. All score sheets must be signed by the referees who officiated the game and must have their USA number clearly printed. Failure to clearly print their USA number may result in suspension or other disciplinary action by the Referee Representative to the MAHA.
- 3. The MAHA Vice President of Officials, USA Hockey Referee-in-Chief for Michigan, or the appropriate MAHA District Referee-in-Chief Supervisor of officials shall have the authority to suspend a referee up to ten (10) days without a prior hearing. The MAHA Officiating Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to suspend a referee for a longer period of time after a hearing.
- 4. The USA Referee-In-Chief for the MAHA, or his designate, shall schedule referees for the MAHA State Playoffs with approval from the MAHA State Playoff Committee.

5. No Referee or Linesman shall officiate in a division within a tournament, District playoff or State playoff in which their father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband, or wife is a coach, manager, or player of one of the participating teams without:
  - a. Notifying the opposing team of this relationship.
  - b. Obtaining agreement to play the game from both teams, in writing, on the score sheet, prior to the start of the game. (In cases of tournaments or playoffs, this can be done on a blanket basis by all teams, in writing, prior to the start of play.)

#### **XI. Disciplinary Actions for Players, Team Officials, Leagues, or Others (except Referees)**

1. Hearings on all matters of suspension may be conducted in the District in which the penalized player, coach, or team official was registered on the date the penalty was called or by the Match Penalty Coordinator. Upon receipt of notification of an incident involving possible or automatic suspension under these Rules or the USA Hockey playing rules for match penalties, a hearing shall be held in accordance with the rules of USA Hockey Bylaw 10 regarding suspensions and appeals. The Presiding Officer shall have the authority to appoint a temporary third member in the event of the unavailability of any member of the District Council. For the purposes of this Paragraph all "amateur hockey activities" shall include coaching, playing, refereeing and off-ice officiating at games or practices.
2. All match penalties must be reported by both the Referee and the Head Coach or League Director in place of Head Coach for Adult Leagues.
  - a. Within 24 Hours:
    - 1) Referee must report the penalty to his/her District Referee-in-Chief by phone or electronic device. The referee must also submit an official game report via the game report website.
    - 2) The Head Coach must report the penalty, within 24 hours following the incident by phone or electronic device to the District Council Chairperson where the player or team official is rostered.
    - 3) For Adult Leagues, the League Director must report the penalty including the player's complete name, address, phone, and email to the District Chair by phone or electronic device.
  - b. Within 48 Hours:
    - 1) The Referee must send an electronic copy of the original score sheet to the District Referee-in-Chief and the District Chairperson.
    - 2) The Referee must send the original score sheet to the District Chairperson of the affected district.
    - 3) The Referee must keep a copy of both the score sheet and game report for their records.
  - c. If the District Council Chairperson is unavailable, it shall be reported to another District Council Director in the proper District; (see list of District Directors and list of District Supervisor of Officials, MAHA Annual Guide).
  - d. The reporting referee shall personally attend or be represented at any hearing held concerning the penalty. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.
  - e. Violations of these rules may result in the suspension of the offending player, team official, or referee.

3. Any team that leaves the ice during the game in dispute of a registered referee's decision shall forfeit the game by a 1-0 score (regardless of the score at the time). The coach and/or manager of the team leaving the ice, shall be assessed a match penalty and be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than one year.
4. A player or team official receiving a match penalty is automatically suspended from all amateur hockey activities until a hearing is held by the District Council or Match Penalty Coordinator.
5. If, as a result of a hearing, the allegation of deliberate assault on a game official (referee, linesman, official scorekeepers, game timekeepers, penalty timekeepers, goal judges, statisticians, and public address announcers) is sustained, the player or team official shall be suspended for a minimum period of one (1) year, followed by probation for a period to be determined by the District Council.
6. All complaints of vandalism or destruction of public or private property by any player or team staff member shall be referred to their home District Council for disposition. If the home District Council finds that such vandalism or destruction was caused, it shall have the power to suspend players for a recommended minimum of one (1) year and staff members of the team for a recommended minimum of five (5) years. The District Council may, as a condition reinstatement of a player or staff member, require him or her to make reasonable restitution to the damaged property owner.
7. When a player, coach or manager receives a game suspension(s), he/she shall not be eligible to participate in the next game(s) that were already on the schedule of that team before the incident occurred.
8. The head coach of any team accumulating twelve (12) or more penalties during the same game, will automatically be suspended for the next game his/her team plays (USA Hockey - 404 misconduct penalties). If the head coach is not present at all during the game in which the team accumulates the twelve (12) or more penalties, the person on the bench responsible for the team (*i.e.*: who signed the score sheet prior to the start of the game) will be assessed the suspension.
9. A player who receives a game misconduct penalty will be suspended for one game. Upon receipt of a game misconduct, the player must immediately proceed to the locker room and either: a) remain in the locker room for the balance of the game, or b) dress and leave the arena premises.
10. The MAHA District Councils shall have the power to suspend any member for conduct detrimental to hockey either on or off the ice. Violation of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and written policies of USA Hockey or The MAHA may result in disciplinary action.
11. Abusive or threatening words or action toward any Officer, Director, appointed Officer or Game Official of this Association, opposing Team Official, opposing player or spectator shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct and the District Council shall have the power to suspend such person(s) after conducting a hearing on such matter.
12. In order to preserve as far as possible, the integrity of amateur hockey, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before all of the rights of the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association and USA Hockey shall have been exhausted, shall be ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any member or individual in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

13. Any team personnel registered with another affiliate team of USA Hockey which plays in a Michigan League, receiving a match penalty in a game played in Michigan, is automatically suspended from all amateur hockey activities in Michigan, until a hearing is conducted in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10. A. 3.
14. Any disciplinary circumstance not elsewhere covered in these rules will be assigned by the President or by the Executive Committee to the proper District Council for a hearing. In circumstances where multiple Districts are involved, the Executive Committee may conduct the hearing.
15. Any suspension or other disciplinary action imposed as a result of a hearing may be appealed. See USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
16. Failure of the parent/legal guardian(s) of any registered player to comply with the MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct shall become the disciplinary responsibility of the District Councils where the parent/legal guardian's player is registered. District Council may refer matters back to the Association level when they deem appropriate. Upon resolution, all findings and actions are to be reported to the MAHA VP of Abuse & Appeals.
17. It is also highly recommended that the parent/legal guardian also view the MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey Program video. This recommendation is especially important regarding parents who are new to the sport of ice hockey.
18. Unless otherwise stated in these rules, a minimum 30-day suspension is recommended for anyone who is found in violation of the MAHA rules as outlined in its annual guidebook.

## **XII: Safe Sport / Abuse Prevention**

1. The Abuse Prevention Committee shall include the MAHA legal counsel. The committee shall promulgate the rules, procedures, and programs for the screening of personnel, receive allegations of physical and sexual abuse as defined below and suspend individuals after diligent investigations.
2. MAHA Screening Policy.

It is the policy of the MAHA that it will not allow participation in its programs any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (anyone under the age of majority) who refuses to consent to be screened by the MAHA before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in the MAHA's programs. This policy includes coaches, referees, MAHA personnel, Association personnel, League personnel; any age of majority participant that comes in contact with minors within MAHA's programs and those persons who billet on a continuing basis. A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as a volunteer or employee of the MAHA if the person has:

  - a. Been convicted (including crimes the record of which have been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes, controlled substance crimes or misappropriation of funds.
    - 1). For purposes of this policy, controlled substances shall include "mood altering substances" as shown below:
      - (a) Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.

- (b) Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
    - (c) Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctor's orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
  - b. Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.
  - c. Been subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order for protection.
  - d. Had their parental rights terminated.
  - e. A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
  - f. Resigned, been terminated, or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors; or
  - g. Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in the MAHA.
3. It is recognized that some youth players do leave home to play hockey in a location away from their parents. In those circumstances, the organization or team typically arranges for the player to live with a host or billet family. Having youth players live outside their homes increases risk for abuse and misconduct to occur. It shall be the obligation of each team/association that arrange for players to live with billet families to have written policies and procedures in place to govern the arrangement. The team/organization must assign a billeting coordinator for each team that is billeting players. All non-Michigan billeted players must register with USA Hockey using their parent's home address. The billeting coordinator will be familiar and follow all rules set forth in the USA Hockey Billeting Policy located in the Safe Sport Handbook. The billeting coordinator for each team will report directly to the District Director in direct charge of his team. No billeted player can be placed on a roster without the District Director's approval. The District Director will provide a list of Billeted players to the MAHA Youth Vice President. Billeting rules are in effect for Regular, Pre/Post and Spring Summer teams.
4. Definitions.
- a. Sexual Abuse.

Sexual abuse is when A) the perpetrator touches a child for the sexual arousal or gratification of either the perpetrator or the child or when a child touches the perpetrator at the perpetrator's request or with his/her consent such as but not limited to touching a child's intimate body parts, touching the clothing over a child's intimate body parts, fondling, oral, genital or anal penetration (including kissing), intercourse, rape, having a child touch the perpetrator's intimate body parts. B) Any charge brought by governmental authority for solicitation on the internet, or other electronic or telephone devices, of a minor(s) for purposes of sex (an illegal or immoral act).
  - b. Physical Abuse.

Physical abuse is physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury or having physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal

- injury, including but not limited to hitting, swatting, twisting limbs, kicking, striking with an object, biting, poking, pushing, or shoving or forcing the victim into a barrier.
5. Any of the following named persons / positions who shall become engaged with the MAHA after August 1st shall immediately submit to a background screening. Participation in the MAHA is prohibited unless he/she has submitted the application.
    - a. Each coach, assistant coach, manager, referee, instructor, minor official, officers of all Associations and any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (everyone under the age of majority) shall complete the online background screening application authorizing the Abuse Prevention Committee to obtain criminal history records from any governmental unit.
    - b. For coaches and managers, the background screening confirmation form shall be delivered to the USA Hockey Associate Registrar at the time the volunteer submits the team roster for certification. For all other Association/Club personnel, the background screening confirmation form shall be submitted to the Association/Club president. Referees are to submit their background screening confirmation form to their District Referee Supervisor.
  6. If upon review of the criminal record of an individual by the Committee designee, there appears any of the crimes set forth in the abuse prevention policy, or misdemeanor convictions having a sexual nature, the designee shall forward the criminal record to the Chairman of the Committee. The Chairman shall forthwith notify the participant in writing, by certified mail, that he/she is disqualified and to immediately cease MAHA participation. The Chairman shall advise the participant that he/she shall have five (5) days in which to request in writing a hearing to discuss the disqualification. Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the Chairman shall appoint three members of the Committee to discuss the circumstances of the criminal record with the participant. The three-member Committee shall notify the Chairman of the results of the hearing. The Chairman shall notify the participant. Only the Chairman and the three-member panel shall be made aware of the name of the participant. If the disqualification is sustained, the participant is disqualified from all MAHA/USA Hockey participation of every nature.
  7. All allegations of sexual abuse shall be in writing and sealed and forwarded to the Chairman. There shall be no disclosure to any other person except the Chairman and his designees. The allegations shall be immediately forwarded to the applicable police department or other appropriate governmental authority and to the MAHA legal counsel. The chairman, upon receipt of the allegations, shall notify the accused in writing that he/she is immediately disqualified from all MAHA/USA Hockey participation of every nature. The Chairman shall report the incident to the US Center for Safe Sport.
  8. Allegations of physical abuse shall be reported in writing to the Chairman of the Committee. The participant shall not be suspended from MAHA activities. The Vice President of Abuse shall appoint an investigator who shall determine the circumstances of the allegations. The Chairman shall report the allegations to the appropriate governmental agency. Upon report of the investigator, the Chairman shall appoint a three-member panel from members of the committee who shall forthwith, after notice to all interested parties, hear the evidence and determine if the participant shall be suspended from MAHA participation. If the investigator determines that there are not sufficient grounds, he shall notify the Chairman, who shall notify the volunteer.

9. The proceedings shall be conducted with utmost confidentiality for the protection of the accused participant and the alleged victim. If allegations of abuse prove to be entirely unfounded or were submitted for any other reason than the prevention of abuse, the party submitting the allegations shall be suspended from MAHA activities.
10. It is the policy of the MAHA and USA Hockey that there shall be no hazing of any participant involved in any of their sanctioned programs, training camps, hockey clinics, coaches clinics, referee clinics, District, State and National tournaments or other MAHA / USA Hockey events by any employee, volunteer, participant or independent contractor.

Hazing Definition: Conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive, or physically harmful. Any player, team official, executive member of a Team, Club or Association having been party to or having had knowledge of any degrading hazing, or initiation rite without reporting or taking action on it shall be subject to suspension from playing or holding office with any Team, Club, Association, or the MAHA

### **XIII: League requirements**

1. General League Requirements.

The following conditions shall constitute a commitment and obligation of a team to participate as a member team of a league:

  - a. If an official of a team, or an authorized official of the program of which the team is a member, files an application for entry into a league in a situation where an application is the standard method used by that league over a period of years, and the application is accepted.
  - b. If an official of a team, or an authorized official of the program of which the team is a member, pays an entry fee for entry into a league, in a situation where the payment of an entry fee is the standard method used by that league over a period of years.
  - c. If no answer is given to an application in two calendar weeks, the team may apply elsewhere.
2. A league consists of four (4) or more teams in the same age classification, category and division playing a regular schedule of games.
3. A league must declare its age classifications and divisions before accepting entries from teams. Leagues may form checking and/or non-checking divisions in the 18, 16, and 14 and under classifications.
4. No team may play in a Canadian League unless permission is secured in writing from the USA Hockey, the MAHA, the Ontario Hockey Association, and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.
5. A Michigan team which has qualified in a Canadian League may apply to its District Council and the State Playoff Committee for permission to participate in District and State Playoffs.
6. All teams from other USA Hockey Affiliates or Hockey Federations wishing to participate in a Michigan-based league, need their Affiliates or Federation's written approval submitted to the MAHA President and a copy to the League they wish to join, one week prior to the league commitment date. Permission is for each league's playing season. A copy of final approval must be sent to each USA Hockey Associate Registrar.
7. The constitution, structure, policy, Bylaws, rules and regulations of Youth, Girls or High School leagues shall incorporate the following principles and policies:

- a. All leagues comprised of teams from more than one Association, Club and/or Independent teams (excluding Adult Men and Women) must file a copy of its constitution and/or Bylaws with the MAHA President by October 1 of each year. Violation of this rule may result in non-sanctioning, suspension, or other action toward the league.
- b. The President shall review league articles, constitution, Bylaws, and rules and if the President does not mail written comments to the league within thirty (30) days of receipt, the articles, constitution, Bylaws, and rules will be deemed approved. The President shall have the authority to require compliance with the above principles and policies and to recommend non-sanctioning, suspension, or other action toward the league to the Executive Committee for their approval.
- c. The league's rules and regulations shall provide that:
  - 1) The League's rules incorporate USA Hockey and MAHA rules and regulations and playing rules and exceptions may vary from USA Hockey and MAHA rules and regulations providing they are more stringent and without major change with the exception of age classifications. Age classifications must be strictly adhered to, from 6U (Mini-Mite) through 18U (Midget), High School and all Girls classifications, as defined in the MAHA Guide Section II and III., which will not be considered to be within the "more stringent" policy.
  - 2) If the league does not automatically permit all USA Hockey and MAHA qualifying teams to participate in the league in the appropriate classification within the league's geographic area, then the rules should clearly define eligibility criteria for all teams. In such cases the rules should also contain procedures for teams to apply and a review or appeal procedure if the team is initially denied the right to participate in the league. The same rules should also apply to a league that admits Associations or sponsor organizations rather than individual teams. This requirement shall not prevent Tier I leagues from denying participation on the basis of teams not being competitive so long as there are criteria, application procedures and a review or appeal process set forth in the league's rules and regulations.

#### **XIV. Spring/Summer League**

1. All teams in spring and summer leagues and conditioning programs must complete an USA Hockey Team Roster Form (1-T). Players and Team officials not registered prior to the spring/summer season must register online through USA Hockey. Confirmation letters for all players and team officials must be presented to the Associate Registrar for approval prior to the start of any games.
2. Team Officials (Coaches, Managers, and locker room attendants) must provide proof of a Background screening and Safe Sport before participating with the team.
3. A player's obligation to his/her regular season team ends on April 30th of the current season, or when his/her regular season team becomes inactive prior to that date.
4. A player who is a member of an active regular season team may register and play in spring/summer leagues and conditioning programs if he/she has the written permission of his/her regular season team coach or manager.
5. A player's obligation to his/her spring/summer league or conditioning program ends with the completion of the league or conditioning programs schedule, or when he/she is released in writing prior to that date.



6. All spring/ summer leagues and conditioning programs must use the current playing rules of USA Hockey /MAHA.
7. Spring/summer leagues and conditioning programs may have added special rules for their league, provided such rules are not contradictory to, or less stringent than the current USA Hockey /MAHA rules.
8. Spring/Summer Season league play may not start prior to the week of April 1st.
9. In all Youth divisions, a player may register and play with a maximum of two teams at a time in the spring/summer season.
10. Spring/Summer players must play in the USA Hockey age classification they will be in for the next regular (winter) hockey season.
11. 19U girls and 18U youth are eligible to participate up until August 31 of the current season in the same age classification as the previous season.
12. All player or coach suspensions shall be served with the team with which the penalty was incurred. If the team the penalty was incurred with has ended its season, the player shall serve the suspension in his/her next game. Note: A player or coach receiving a match penalty is suspended from participating in any USA Hockey games and practices until a hearing is conducted.

#### **XV: Sanctioned tournaments**

1. Definition of a Tournament.  
Competition, other than normally scheduled league or non-league games, where two or more legally registered teams compete in the same subcontracted arenas within a specified time frame and where playing fees are channeled to a specified person, organization, or location for the purpose of declaring a champion. Gatherings consisting of more than four teams, except Association exchanges, are responsible for those fees required by tournaments even though there are no winners declared.
2. All sanctioned tournaments shall be under the supervision and control of the MAHA President.
3. All sanctioned tournaments must declare their age and division classifications before accepting entries from teams.
4. All tournaments held in Michigan must secure a sanction and sanction number from the MAHA/USA Hockey before a tournament is advertised or promoted or any tournament fees collected. This shall be accomplished by filing an application online that includes the tournament information along with a copy of the rules and regulations and paying the current sanction fee as determined by the MAHA. The tournament sanction number must be displayed in all advertisements and fliers promoting the tournament. At the conclusion of the event, payment of the team fee as determined by the MAHA for each team participating in the tournament is required. The tournament host must complete an electronic form listing the teams that participated in the tournament. Both the list and the final payment must be made within two weeks of the tournament conclusion. A tournament host who fails to follow these procedures may be suspended from all tournament activity for a period of one year.
5. Any tournaments held in Michigan where individuals or groups of players compete together in a 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 tournament, must secure a special event sanction and sanction number from the MAHA before a tournament is advertised or promoted or any tournament fees

collected. This shall be accomplished by filing a copy of the rules and regulations of the tournament along with a \$350 sanction fee with the USA Hockey Registrar for Michigan. The tournament host must check to ensure all players are registered with USA Hockey. Acceptable proof is a copy of the current team roster the player is on. A copy of this information must be kept by the tournament director and submitted to the MAHA at the completion of the tournament if requested. A tournament host who fails to follow these procedures may be suspended from all tournament activity for a period of one year.

6. One of the requirements necessary for the MAHA sanction of tournaments is that only USA Hockey or CAHA registered teams and IIHF approved teams, be allowed to enter.
7. Only the Head Coach of any rostered team that participates in a non-sanctioned tournament shall be subject to a recommended suspension of one year. It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that the tournament has secured a sanction, and to record the sanction number before entering any invitational tournament.
8. Programs which fail to roster all of their member teams are not eligible to receive sanctions for any tournaments.
9. All tournament pairings and game times must be posted in all arenas in which any of the games are being played before the start of the first game of the tournament. No Youth classification 18U (Midget) or younger) tournament game may be scheduled to begin later than 10:30 pm, or before 6:00 am. However, if properly scheduled games are delayed by circumstances such as injuries or overtime play, these scheduled games may be completed even if they would violate the above curfews.
10. Any team participating in Canadian Tournaments, Exhibition games or League games must complete the appropriate Canadian Travel Application form, via the MAHA web site, and submit it with a \$25.00 application fee. An individual application must be made for each tournament and team attending. For exhibition and league games, an application can be made for the entire season provided all games are listed on the initial application. If subsequent exhibition or league games are added an additional application must be applied for.
11. For tournaments, the number of games played by any player or team on one day shall not be more than two with a minimum of four hours between the finish of the first game and the start of the second and twelve hours between games played on consecutive days. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a two-year suspension of the tournament director. Any violations shall be reported to the Executive Committee for further action. Excludes Adult sanctioned tournaments.
12. Any team which enters a tournament which fails to appear on time for a scheduled game shall (1) forfeit all of its tournament games, (2) shall pay for all expenses, including but not limited to all referees' fees and all ice costs for each forfeited game and shall be denied entry in any further tournaments for the remainder of the season. In unusual circumstances, the tournament committee may waive this rule.
13. All teams, including but not limited to out of state teams, must place on file with the Tournament Director before the first tournament game, a copy of the Team Roster Form which has been approved, signed, and sealed by their USA Hockey or CAHA Registrar. If any team shall fail to comply with this rule that team shall forfeit all games until the proper signed and sealed team roster is presented to the Tournament Director. The team violating this rule

shall remain obligated to and shall pay all financial obligations to all opponents for forfeited game costs and the league or tournament entry fees.

14. All travel teams not eligible for State Tournament Play (during the regular season) will not be approved for Canadian Tournaments or Exhibition Games.

## **XVI: Awards**

1. William Kellogg Memorial.

Mr. Kellogg was a former outstanding MAHA officer from Port Huron. The Kellogg family has donated a memorial plaque to be given to a member of the Board of Directors for outstanding achievement and dedication to amateur hockey. Each year the members of the Board will vote for whom they wish to merit this honor. Mr. Kellogg was selected the first honored member.

2. Carl Schwarz Award.

At each Summer Meeting, the Carl Schwarz Award is presented to the Immediate Past President.

3. Wes Danielson Award.

At each Summer Meeting the Wes Danielson Award recognizes an individual who, like Wes, overcomes a major handicap or diversity and continues to participate in or make a major contribution to ice hockey.

4. Earl G. Piper Award.

At each Summer Meeting, the Earl G. Piper Coach of the Year Award recognizes an individual who contributes significantly to the development of youth players.

5. Charles Autore Award.

At each Summer Meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed five consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

6. Larry Cain Award.

At each Summer Meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed ten consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

7. Gerald M. Conley Award.

At each Summer Meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed fifteen consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

8. John Vargo Award.

At each Summer Meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed twenty consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

9. Ralph Bammert Award.

At each Summer Meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed twenty-five consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

10. Lowell McCoy Award.

At each Summer Meeting, the Lowell McCoy Referee of the Year Award recognizes a referee who has contributed significantly to the development of young officials and excellence in his/her role as a referee.

11. Ray Kraemer Award.

At each Summer Meeting of the MAHA the adult player or participant who has been helpful in the promotion and development of adult hockey.

12. John Stansik Association of the Year Award.

13. Special Awards.

At each Summer Meeting of the MAHA those persons who have been helpful in the promotion and development of hockey in Michigan may be presented with a special MAHA award.

14. The Awards Committee will serve as the selection committee for the Summer awards.

15. Hat Trick, Zero and Playmaker awards will be awarded to those who earn them in the regular season, or State Playoff.

Games and National Tournaments, providing the roster of the team has been registered with the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar. A copy of the game score sheet must be submitted to the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar. Score sheets will be returned by request. There is a limit of one of each award per player per season.