

Missouri Youth Hockey Girls Exclusive Club Rules

This document is to serve as a 2-year commitment to allow the Girls Committee to obtain workable data to continue to grow and evaluate the efforts and growth needed to continue to grow the game of girls' hockey.

Mission Statement:

To Grow the Game of Girls Hockey through improved opportunities within clubs and affiliations working together to strengthen relationships with players and families.

Provide Opportunities to girls through regional communication and Girls Clubs supporting each other and existing Missouri Hockey clubs

- Tier 1 Girls Hockey should meet under the Tier 1 Committee. Tier 1 Girls Hockey presence is not limited to Tier 1 and will be consulted when needed and when united events are involved or being planned to further the unification of girls grown regionally. * please see additional goals for *United Events* description
- Girls playing Co-ed Hockey will continue to follow rules set in place under current Missouri Hockey rules not exclusive to Girls Hockey

Additional Goals

- A bigger presence on the Missouri Hockey Formats
- Providing Girls Events outside of club events "United Events" spearheaded by the Blues organization in this 2-year commitment
- College information, Planning Path, Outreach, Collegiate options exclusive to Girls teams
- Expanded Opportunities for Girls through player development and club development including the goals set above.

Girl's Committee Rules

Lady Cyclones, Lady Falcons and Lady Liberty are the current girls' clubs and founding members of the Girls Committee. Additional Girls Clubs wishing to join the Girl's Committee will be given full voting rights based on the below information and requirements.

For an all Girl's Club to become a voting member they must:

1. Be part of an existing MO Hockey YD Affiliate or admitted as a MO Hockey YD Affiliate

2. Be in existence for at least 1 calendar year
3. Create and field at least 2 6U, 8U all girls' teams
4. Create and field at least 1 youth all girls team 10 U and/or higher
5. Have a minimum 45 registered female players in their all Girls Program

Lady Cyclones, Lady Falcons, Lady Liberty will each be allowed 1 vote when voting is required

1. Each all-Girls Club shall designate a club representative to the Girls Committee, and that club representative will be the voting member
2. If the club representative to the Girls Committee is not available, such club may appoint a temporary club representative that will be allowed full voting rights, this person should be identified by email at least 1 hour prior to the applicable scheduled meeting. If a representative for a club does not attend a meeting properly called and held, that club forfeits their vote/s for that meeting.
 - All Meetings must have at least 7 days' prior notice
 - Meetings may be held in person or zoom, phone or a combination of technology based formats
 - All Three clubs must be in attendance for a quorum (except as provided above)
3. Guests may attend meetings with group notice and approval prior to the meeting, these guests should bring value to growing the girls game
4. Meetings are subject to being declared open or closed, guests may be excluded based on topics and subject matter.
6. If a unanimous vote cannot be reached the vote can be tabled for up to but no more than 30 days from the original vote and may be voted upon again.
7. If a unanimous vote cannot be reached and there is an issue where all avenues have been exhausted to reach a resolution the Girls Committee may appeal to the Missouri Youth Hockey Board for a resolution. All Girls committee voting members must be present at the time of the discussion with Missouri Youth Board when asking for a resolution.

Transfer Rules

1. Girls clubs will remain open district and a girl may choose to play at any girls' club. Upon declaring a club, they will be required to follow the below rules:
 - Girls will be deemed to have chosen/declared an all-Girls program upon entering: Learn to Play or any other implied beginner paid session of 4 weeks or more.

- Learn to Play declarations are defined as above and is valid at any point during the calendar year. Learn to Play is not defined as a regular season program as it is a year round option at each of the all Girl's Clubs.
 - If the girl player does not participate in a Learn to Play program, they will be deemed to have declared their girls club based upon where they play for their first team during the regular season.
2. A **regular season** is defined as August 1st through conclusion of Nationals
 3. A **program/ club** is defined as a club or multi team organization
 4. Once a Girls' club is chosen by the player/family as described above, that girl will remain at their chosen "declared" club until the completion of her final 10U age appropriate season. That girl is allowed to file to transfer and submit request and paperwork at that time or any time thereafter. Transfers and movement are not guaranteed *see transfer rules under transfers in this document. Players playing up or down must follow their age appropriate designated level for transfers.
 5. Players that submit to transfer from their declared girls club to a new girls' club will be assigned 2 consecutive regular seasons at their new club (club they have transferred to)
 6. Unless specified herein, any deadlines, dates and paperwork submissions will follow existing Missouri Youth Hockey rules *rules outlined below, and in the event of a conflict between the rules set forth in the Girls Rules and any other Missouri Hockey rules, the rules set forth in the Girls Rules shall govern.
 7. Girls programs will only be permitted to register up to 2 girls granted transfers in any season from each of the other girls' programs at the USA hockey girls *appropriate* age levels defined as 12U and 14U (e.g., the maximum transfers that Lady Cyclones may register are 2 12U players and 2 14U players granted transfers from Lady Liberty and 2 12U players and 2 14U players granted transfers from Lady Falcons). This would apply to girls previously registered with another Girls Program the previous season.
 - Transfers will be accepted in random draw format (names will be entered into a random draw program)
 - All transfer requests must be submitted in writing; filling out the transfer form provided by the Girls Committee. These requests will be forwarded to the Girls Committee. The transfer form will be available on the Missouri Hockey Website under the Girls Hockey Page.
 - The original transfer form shall be submitted to the Mo Hockey Office by the prospective transferee **by 5pm ten days prior to the Youth Division Scheduled June Board meeting** of the year in which the transfer or "choice" is to take effect.
 - Girls will be given a 1st and 2nd choice to transfer. All data will be placed in a program to create a random selection. All 1st Choice selections will be drawn first. If a club doesn't meet their maximum number of transfers 2nd choice will be re-entered into the program for random draw. The transfer form must be signed by the receiving clubs Registrar only. Signatures other than the receiving clubs Registrar will void the transfer request. If the receiving clubs Registrar is unavailable, the receiving clubs President which is on record with Missouri Hockey Youth Division may sign the

transfer form with written permission from the Missouri Hockey Youth Division President. No other board member, coach, or member of the receiving club may sign the transfer form.

- Incomplete or improperly completed Transfer Forms will void the transfer request and a transfer will not be granted.
 - Final acceptance of any documentation is the MAIHA – Girls Committee Decision
 - Failure to submit the appropriate transfer form and documentation will result in the immediate denial of the transfer.
 - By making a request for transfer the applicant and her family expressly consent to be bound by the decision of the Girls Committee as to her placement (i.e., 1st or 2nd transfer option) and must abide by that decision and register only with the all-girls club to whom she is assigned.
8. The transfer rules shall apply up through the completion of the 14U major season, after which a female player may play for any all-girls club (subject to any other applicable restrictions)
9. A girl player may be released from an all Girl's club following all the co-ed rules of a player release. If another all Girl's club chooses to pick up this player it will not count towards the above transfer rules.
10. Grandfathered Players:

Any player that was rostered on a team or participated in a learn to play program meeting the definition herein that is part of an all-girls club during the 2021-2022 season shall be deemed to have declared for that girls' club.

For the Season of 2022-2023 only: Appeals may be submitted by the first Friday of June 2022. Appeals are not guaranteed to be granted and the number of appeals granted will be limited. Any player that is granted an appeal will be randomly assigned to one of the other girls clubs.

Hardships

Additional choices or transfers shall only be allowed in situations where the applicant shall have demonstrated that an additional transfer is necessary because of hardship.

A) Hardship transfers could be for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to:

- Distance of travel
- Financial
- Safesport violations reported to the Safesport program

B) Hardship transfers are not guaranteed

- Players requesting a Hardship Transfer must complete the "Tier II Player Declaration and

Acknowledgment Form" by following all the rules, requirements and procedures described in this document.

- The form must indicate they are requesting a Hardship Transfer. All requests for additional transfers due to hardship shall be made in writing accompanied by whatever documentation that the applicant deems necessary.
- The original form shall be submitted to the Mo Hockey Office by the prospective transferee by **5pm ten days prior to the Youth Division Scheduled June Board** meeting of the year in which the transfer or "choice" is to take effect.
- Upon receipt of the completed form the Mo Hockey Office shall then forward the form to the Missouri Girls Hockey Committee, who shall review and consider the hardship transfer request. The player will be notified of the Girls Committee decision within thirty days.
- By making a request for transfer due to hardship the applicant and her family expressly consent to be bound by the decision of the Girls Committee as to her placement and must abide by that decision and register only with the all-girls club to whom she is assigned.

Miscellaneous

1. These rules and affiliations will be reevaluated November of every even year beginning November 2024. Rules changes should begin discussion no later than November of the reevaluation year, all rule changes should be completed and ready to submit to the Missouri Youth Hockey Board for a vote by the directly following January. Discussions may begin at any point just no later than November of the even year.
2. Any Co-ed Missouri Hockey team may field an all-girls team as long as they form the team based on current USA Hockey and Missouri Hockey co-ed rules and those girls are within their zip coded district. Girl players may still be dual rostered with an all-girls hockey program/club.
3. New all girl's programs requesting voting rights and to be part of the Missouri Hockey Girls Committee will submit a Girls Specific proposal to support organic growth and a sustainable club plan to the current girl's committee and begin with an all girl's LTP, create and field at least 2 6U/8U teams. Existing Missouri Hockey Clubs may still continue to field all girls' teams under current Missouri hockey zip code districted rules as they have always had the ability to do.
4. Household Clause

If a female player transfers from an all Girl's club to another all Girl's club all additional female siblings may move to new club or remain at their declared club (and will not be subject to the transfer rules above). All girl players within the family will however be then be subject to 2 year freeze in movement.

5. Clubs will identify players that do not fit into projected skill level for current teams held within all girls' clubs. All Girl clubs will have a meeting by June of each year to identify those players and create opportunities within other all girls 'clubs if needed. These players are still retained by their declared club
6. Girls Committee will be responsible for monitoring Girl's Only rules, information, and player movement, and any issue, conflict or concern that involves co-ed rules will be deferred to the Missouri Youth Hockey board

Affiliations

- Affiliations will be created to build relationships to improve communications, opportunities, and grow the girl's programs locally
- Affiliation is to be understood as a club partnership, relationship, point of contact between an identified Girls Program and a Missouri Hockey Club. These clubs are agreed up affiliations, their partnerships are not exclusive but mutually agreed upon. Girls Programs will have the ability to create focused affiliations and partnerships with named Missouri Hockey clubs. These affiliations may change based on the formation of new Girls Programs being formed or the introduction of new data showing that support in certain areas need to shift to best create options and opportunities for girl players.

Affiliations are as follows

1. Lady Cyclones: Kirkwood, Twin Bridges
2. Lady Liberty: Meramec, Southern IL, Affton
3. Lady Falcons: STP, Rockets, Chesterfield
4. Open districts are open affiliations; open districts are considered those clubs/programs not listed above.

When a girl's club is looking to reach out to a Missouri Hockey club outside of their agreed upon affiliation they will provide notice to the girl's program assigned to that Missouri Hockey Club