



2016-2017 Youth Tournament Eligibility Policy

Applies to: RI Hockey Youth Associations and their teams that are interested in participating in play down competitions for National, Regional, or Sectional tournaments. This policy covers Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III.

Purpose: To provide clear guidelines for National, Regional and Sectional Play Down eligibility within the USA Hockey Youth classification to interested associations and their teams for the 2016-2017 season.

Summary: Any RI Hockey member association that maintains good standing as defined in section VI of the RI Hockey by laws and meets the requirements outlined below may submit application for participation in the RI Hockey Play Downs. Teams (and their associations) that qualify to participate in National, Regional and Sectional tournaments and do not attend the tournament qualified for, will be subject to disciplinary action by RI Hockey in the form of fines and/or suspensions of eligibility for future participation. At a minimum, any disciplinary action issued to RI Hockey by the New England District or USA Hockey will be passed on to the offending team/association.

Requirements:

1. The association must be a Voting or Associate member of RI Hockey in good standing as described in Section VI of the RI Hockey by laws.
2. National Bound Teams must have a minimum of 17 rostered players.
3. The team applying for participation must meet the following residency quota:
 - a. For teams with a roster of less than 20 players, no more than 2 non-RI resident players may be rostered; for teams with a 20 player roster, no more than 3 non-RI resident players may be rostered.
 - b. Residency will be determined as follows:
 - i. Players that are permanent RI residents living in RI will be considered RI residents
 - ii. Players that are permanent RI residents living temporarily outside of RI at a boarding school will be considered RI residents.
 - iii. Players attending and residing at a boarding school in RI will be considered RI residents.
 - iv. Players living temporarily in RI and not attending a boarding school will be considered non-RI residents.
 - v. Players residing outside of RI will be considered non-RI residents.
4. All rostered players must be in good financial standing with other RI Hockey members per the Player Financial Good Standing Policy. Disputes may be appealed by the player to the RI Hockey Release Committee.

5. Associations must request and receive a financial release for newly acquired players from other RI Hockey Associations. Any disputes must be submitted to the RI Hockey Release Committee prior to the player in question being officially rostered.

Requirements (cont):

6. Declarations must be received with deposits by the deadlines stated on the official application. If there are no qualified applicants, RI Hockey, in its sole discretion, may extend the application deadline or forfeit the tournament bid.

Organization: The Play Down formats will be determined by the number of teams declaring and qualified for participation. Tier I competition will be exclusive to teams declaring Tier I. Tier II National competition will be exclusive to teams declaring Tier II National. Tier II Regional, Tier II Sectional, and Tier III Sectional competitions will be comingled competitions with teams qualifying for tournaments based upon their final position in play down competition.