

USA Hockey Rule Highlights Passed at the 2016 Congress

- 2016-2017 FLEX HOCKEY**
Annual Guide; Programs & Philosophies; A. Youth Hockey
This program is designed to provide opportunities to play for enjoyment, fitness, relaxation and fellowship. The focus is on creating a fun, safe environment where participants can be active in the sport of hockey with flexible participation commitment and varied playing formats and varied playing rules. Flex hockey would be no-check, ages can be mixed and rosters optional.
- 2016-2017 DISABLED HOCKEY**
Two new classifications are added: Blind/Visually Impaired and Warrior Hockey (veterans with a disability playing upright.).
Age changes were also passed.
- 2016-2017 ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE POLICY (revised)**
Annual Guide; Policies; Consumption/Use/Abuse of Mood Altering Substances
Updated language defining alcohol and drugs; zero tolerance for being under the influence while supervising minor athletes.
- 2016-2017 NON-SANCTIONED PLAY**
Annual Guide; Policies; USA Hockey Guidelines for Non-Sanctioned Play
Incorporates guidelines for non-sanctioned play.
- 2016-2017 FINANCIAL DISPUTES**
Annual Guide; Bylaw; 10.D.(3) (h) Unified Procedures Not Applicable to Financial Disputes
Provides a procedure for enforcement of suspensions within Affiliates when a program seeks to make a player ineligible for failure to pay fees or dues.
MAHA has set up a Special Committee to provide a definitive process within MAHA.
- 2016-2017 NEW CLASSIFICATION: 15U TIER I**
Annual Guide; Rules & Regulations; II. Classifications
The 15-year-old age category shall be for the Tier I Youth level only and shall be limited to player age 15. Players that are not age 15 in the current season shall not be permitted to play at the 15-year-old age classification under any circumstances.
- 2016-2017 CLASSIFICATION NAMES**
Annual Guide; Rules & Regulations; II. Classifications
Removes references to age classifications using Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget, and instead refers to them using age categories.

2017-2018 FOURTEEN YEAR OLD PLAYERS

Annual Guide; Rules & Regulations; District Playoffs and National Championships
No player twelve years of age or younger is eligible to play on a team intending or declared to compete in the District or National Championships or playoffs leading thereto.

2017-2018 TRYOUTS/PLAYER SELECTION

Annual Guide; Rules & Regulations; III. Team Membership And Registration
No youth or girls Tier I or Tier II team may recruit or solicit players or offer contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of the Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed).

2017-2018 LIMITATION ON TIER 1 TEAMS

Annual Guide; Rules & Regulations; III. Team Membership and Registration
Defines the allowable number of Tier I boy and Tier I girl teams allowed.
MAHA rules more definitive for boys; see the MAHA Annual Guide.
MAHA rules for girls follow the USA Hockey rule (20% with 18 players per team).

2017-2018 TIER I TEAM STANDARDS

Annual Guide; Rules & Regulations; III. Team Membership And Registration
Creates a national standard and criteria for Tier I teams.

A full list of the rule changes adopted at the USA 2016 Hockey Congress can be found at www.usahockey.com