

Volunteer Screening
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USA Hockey initiated a coach/volunteer screening program in the mid 1990's. Mid Am began its screening under Dave Klasnick in 1998 which was transferred to Kaye Pinkowski in 1999, where it remained until last year. USAH national office assumed the responsibility for screening approval before any coach, board member, or other volunteer could be utilized by any association or any national position.

Mid Am is unique for screening because of the requirements of Pennsylvania. There are three additional documents for Pennsylvania residents (which must be obtained **BEFORE** the screening process through the national office utilizing NCSI) begins. The Pennsylvania documents include: Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance; Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance, and FBI Criminal History Clearance.

Because of covid delays, many localities are not current with their records, so it would be wise to begin the process as soon as you determine you will be volunteering on a board on in an association, or coaching, or in some capacity have access to minors.

Screening is done by our prior vendor, NCSI and the results are not maintained by the national office but rather the vendor to which the national office has access. No screening will be completed (or cleared) until all documents are received and processed. It would be reasonable to think you could complete a screening for all states (assuming you have no issues) **but** Pennsylvania in a week, or so, so long as you had not moved between or among many states so that additional record searches would be initiated by the vendor.

The cost is **\$30 per applicant** and is good for two (2) seasons. (The season starts April 1 and runs to March 31.) You will need to register with USAH and obtain your USA Hockey Number.

Below is a summary from the vendor of their process:

After your personal data is validated, NCSI will search two national criminal databases and national sex offender registries. NCSI will then also perform a local jurisdiction criminal record check in the jurisdiction or jurisdictions associated with your address history found on the social security address trace.

Should there be an issue outside of a "clear" report, the applicant will receive communication, for perhaps, additional information and the application and results will be reviewed by a committee of 3 from a District other than Mid Am. There is a review process and an appeal process. I sit on one of the panels and the system seems to work well.

In addition to screening, all volunteers must take Safesport, either the refresher course (if you have previously taken the course) or the complete training, both of which are available at US Center for SafeSport at no charge. You must have your USA Hockey membership number to sign in for Safe Sport.