



2026-2027 SEASON

ATLANTIC DISTRICT - TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Please refer to the USA Hockey Technical Bulletin regarding Registering/Claiming Members prior to beginning the formation of your rosters. The USA Hockey bulletin has important general information regarding the formation of teams. The information in this, the Atlantic District Technical Bulletin, outlines items **required by the Atlantic District** in addition to the requirements found in the USA Hockey bulletin. Please take the time to read the newly created AAHA Program Registrar Instruction Manual as well as familiarizing yourself with the Atlantic District Rules and Regulations related to rosters which may be found here: <https://www.atlantic-district.org/rulesandregs>.

Team rosters are required for all teams (except Adult) regardless of tier, age level, National Tournament Bound status or league affiliation, including all Scholastic and In-House teams, unless otherwise noted. Adult teams/leagues are not required to form rosters however it is strongly recommended that they do so. Adult teams/leagues **are required** to claim all players participating in your program.

NEW FOR 2026- TIER II/REC RESIDENCY RULE - The new USAH Tier II/Rec Residency Rule states that a player must participate in the Affiliate in which they reside unless a Residency Waiver has been approved or a Neighboring Affiliate Agreement is in place. This is applicable to all teams except Tier I and Adult. Currently the Atlantic District has a Neighboring Affiliate Agreement in place with New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont. Residency is based on where the players parents live. If a player is attending school at an approved residential boarding school, the player can be considered the resident of either the affiliate where the residential boarding school is located or where the parents live. Residential boarding schools are defined as accredited schools where players attend classes in a supervised, on campus, room & board environment. A player living with a billet family or living in a hotel or other alternative living arrangement will not change the player's residency. If you have a player whose primary residency is not in Eastern PA, NJ, DE, NY, CT, MA or VT you will need to secure an approved residency waiver prior to the player being approved to your roster. The Residency Waiver may be found on the Atlantic District website at <https://www.atlantic-district.org/forms>

If you have any questions regarding any of the requirements, or need assistance setting up your teams, please do not hesitate to contact Registrar@aahahockey.org. 2026-27 rosters will be reviewed for approval beginning August 1, 2026. The following requirements **do not** apply to Disabled teams. All Disabled teams should follow the instructions provided by the National Disabled Registrar, Laura Johnson, who may be contacted at: registrar@ahai2.org

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT WHEN CREATING YOUR ROSTERS

Complete the following steps to properly form a team's roster.

All rosters must include the specific items outlined as follow or the roster will not be approved.

****A SUMMARY CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED ITEMS MAY BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS BULLETIN****

1. CREATE YOUR TEAM SETTINGS

- a) **NAME YOUR TEAM:** For all Youth and Girls teams, this field **must** start with the acronym for the name of the League(s) the team will participate in, with **NO EXCEPTIONS** other than for Adult level teams. If the team is not part of a league, start the teams name with NL. **Example:** SCH-North Penn HS.....or..... DVHL-EJEPL- Central Penn Panthers

The following sample acronyms are to be used when naming your team:

AGHF – Atlantic Girls Hockey Federation
AYHL – Atlantic Youth Hockey League
EJEPL – Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League
NJYHL – NJ Youth Hockey League
THF – Tier I Hockey Federation
NC – Non-Check Recreational Team *(other than Girls or In House)*
BOD – Board of Directors Rosters

AHF – Atlantic Hockey Federation
DVHL – Delaware Valley Hockey League
MAWHA – Mid Atlantic Women's Hockey Assoc.
SCH – All High School, Middle School and Elem School Teams
UWHL – United Women's Hockey League
NL – Not Participating with a League *(Independent/In-House/Rec Teams)*

USA Hockey recommends that each member association identify all members of its Board of Directors on a separate roster. Please use the acronym **BOD** followed by your association name when submitting your board of directors' rosters. All members of the BOD are required to register with USA Hockey as a volunteer, have SafeSport and the required NCSI Screening. Please use the proper team settings from the available drop-down menus when forming a BOD Roster. **Please Note: BOD rosters are not mandatory for 2026-27.**

b) **CHOOSE THE SEASON:**

REGULAR – Full season teams formed for the regular season September 1, 2026, thru the conclusion of 2027 Nationals.

NEW FOR 2026 PRE/POST – Split/Short season teams which complete their regular season league schedule typically prior to December, and then return for AAHA post-season participation.

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT – For teams, other than Tier I, that attend a tournament during the regular season and are unable to use their approved Regular Season roster. Tier I teams must use their Regular Season roster when attending tournaments.

SPRING/SUMMER – For teams participating from May 1, 2027, thru August 31, 2027.

c) **CHOOSE THE TEAM TYPE:** Adult – Board – Youth – Girls

d) **CHOOSE THE CLASSIFICATION:** Choose the appropriate age classification, adult classification or scholastic classification for the team. Middle School teams are classified as 14U teams, Elementary school teams are classified as 10U.

e) **CHOOSE THE CATEGORY:**

TIER I or TIER II – Choose for all approved Tier I and Tier II teams in the Atlantic District.

CROSS ICE or HALF ICE – Choose for all 6U/8U teams.

SCHOLASTIC – Choose appropriate scholastic level (High School-Middle School-Elementary) according to classification.

IN-HOUSE – Choose for teams that never leave the building, participating in a rink/Association run In-House program/clinic.

RECREATIONAL – Choose for teams that either participate in-house and/or have a limited travel schedule, playing a max of 25 games per year, against other rink run recreational programs

MAJOR or MINOR – 10U and 12U teams that that would like to distinguish between first (Minor) and second (Major) year players within the age classification when participating as AAA teams.

TRAVEL – Teams that operate in the Atlantic District, not designated as Tier I or Tier II

f) **INDICATE IF THE TEAM IS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND:** Use the drop-down menu to choose Yes or No. For 2026-27 all Tier I teams are National Tournament Bound. There are no non-NTB Tier I teams permitted by USA Hockey.

g) **CHOOSE THE DIVISION:** Choose the appropriate division for the team as follows:

YOUTH / GIRLS TIER I: Choose **AAA** for all Affiliate approved Tier I Youth and Girls teams.

YOUTH / GIRLS TIER II: Choose **AA, A, B or N/A** For all Affiliate approved Tier II Youth and Girls teams.

YOUTH / GIRLS TRAVEL: Choose **A, B, AA, AAA or N/A** for all travel teams not Affiliate approved as Tier I or Tier II

ADULTS: Choose **A, B, C or N/A** for all Adult level teams.

IN HOUSE / REC: Choose **A, B, C or N/A** for all In-House or Recreational teams.

2. **ASSIGN PLAYERS AND STAFF TO YOUR ROSTER**

PLAYER VERIFICATION: Each organization is required to provide Birth Certificates or another form of Government ID for any player that has not been verified **except** for Adult teams. After claiming all players, please run the **VERIFIED BIRTHDATE REPORT** which may be found in the Registry, prior to adding players to the roster. This report will indicate which players need to be verified prior to adding to a roster. Please do not simply send verification documents for all players on the roster as it slows down the approval process. Run the report and provide documentation for only those players that have not been previously verified. Players **will not be approved** to rosters without verified proof of Birthdate and Citizenship. **All unverified players will be redlined.** Verification documents may be securely submitted thru the AAHA website at the following link: <https://www.atlantic-district.org/forms>

a) **ADD PLAYERS:** You may add total players up to the maximum numbers indicated below, however only max 18 skaters/max 2 goaltenders can dress and be on the bench for games, with the exceptions noted.

YOUTH and GIRLS: 20 players

ADULT AND WOMENS: 25 players

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL: 30 players

COLLEGE/WOMENS COLLEGE: 30 players

EXCEPTIONS: Tier I Youth- 15U-16U-18U may roster 22 players (may dress up to 20 skaters-2 Goaltenders)
Tier I Girls- 19U may roster 22 players (may dress up to 20 skaters-2 Goaltenders)

b) **ADD TEAM STAFF:** Each team is required to designate a **Head Coach**, a **Team Manager** and a **Locker Room Monitor**, **except** Adult teams. Rosters **will not be approved** without the three required Staff designations.

The following requirements are mandatory for all Coaches:

Current/Valid CEP*- Age-Appropriate Coaching Module- Valid SafeSport- Valid Screening- PA Act 153 Clearances (if applicable)

*All Atlantic District Coaches are required to have a current/valid CEP prior to being approved to a roster with the following exceptions:

New Coaches are defined as a Coach who has never previously coached any team with USAH.

New Coaches at the 10U and above level are required to complete Level 1 by December 31, 2026

New Mite (6U/8U) Coaches are required to have a minimum Level 6U/8U by Dec 31, 2026

*Coaches with an expired CEP, coaching at the 6U/8U level do not need to progress any further until one of the following occurs:

The Coach moves up to an age classification above 6U/8U

The Coach returns for the 5th consecutive season and the level is now expired – Refresher course will be required every 5 years.

The following requirements are mandatory for all Managers and Locker Room Monitors:

The following requirements are mandatory for all Volunteers who have access to youth participants:

Valid SafeSport- Valid Screening- PA ACT 153 Clearances (if applicable).

Please Note: Members registered as Volunteers, **are not approved for on-ice activities or bench positions**. To be on the ice and/or bench, the person must be designated as a Coach and complete all mandatory coaching requirements.

- c) **IDENTIFY YOUR GOALTENDER(S)**: Each team is required to designate at least one goaltender **except** Adult teams and 6U/8U teams that do not have a dedicated Goaltender. Rosters **will not be approved** without the designation(s).
- d) **CONSENT TO TREAT FORMS**: All teams designated as National Tournament Bound are required to collect and hold on file, authorized Consent to Treat Forms from each Player and Staff member so they may be submitted promptly during the end of season credentialing process.
- e) **SUBMIT YOUR ROSTER FOR REVIEW**
All Tier I Teams are required to submit their roster prior to their first game or October 15, 2026, whichever date is earlier unless the league the team participates with has earlier date requirements.

All other teams must submit their roster prior to their first game or February 15, 2027, whichever date is earlier unless the league the team participates with has earlier date requirements.

SUMMARY CHECKLIST FOR ROSTER REVIEW AND APPROVAL

- () Claim all Players and Coaches into your 2026-27 Registry.
- () Run the Birthdate Verification Report in your Registry and provide documentation for all players that need Verification and/or Transfers
- () Team name must begin with acronym indicating League / School / Other participation.
- () Choose the appropriate Season and Team Settings.
- () Add Verified/Transferred Players to roster.
REMINDER Tier I players are not permitted to be on any other type of roster (other than scholastic) including In-House, Rec, Travel or Invitational Tournament during the 2026-27 season.
- () Identify your Goaltenders (not required for 6U/8U or Adult teams).
- () Add Staff to Roster – Coaches must have CURRENT/VALID CEP with noted exceptions.
 - () Designate a Head Coach
 - () Designate Assist Coach if applicable
 - () Designate Locker Room Monitor
 - () Designate Team Manager
- () Submit your Roster for Review.
 - () All Tier I Teams are required to submit their roster prior to their first game or October 15, 2026, whichever date is earlier unless the league the team participates with has earlier date requirements.
 - () All other teams must submit their roster prior to their first game or February 15, 2027, whichever date is earlier unless the league the team participates with has earlier date requirements.

***If at any time you need assistance forming your rosters
or have any questions regarding the requirements please contact
Registrar@aahahockey.org***