

Coalition Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Is the Coalition a Merger of Rochester Youth Hockey (“RYH”) and the Rochester Grizzlies (“Grizzlies”)?

No, the Coalition is not a merger. A Coalition Agreement has been signed which allows the two organizations to maintain their independent charters under USA Hockey. The Coalition Agreement provides for the two organizations to jointly administer hockey culture, development programming, selection of coaches, team rostering, and the conduct of objective joint tryouts for all Coalition designated teams.

2. Who are the Coalition Committee Members?

Three (3) representatives from RYH: Paul Colucci, Jayme Hurwitz and Mike Valent. Three (3) representatives from Grizzlies: Glenn Collins, Chris Collins and Greg Collins.

3. Why form a Coalition? What’s the benefit to each organization?

The Coalition structure allows for the joint administration of Tier 1 (AAA) and Tier II (AA) travel teams, under unified hockey culture, programming and training. This allows Coalition teams to pursue State bound status at the major years, from Pee wee to Midget, and generally enhances coaching quality, player development and team competitiveness opportunities for our players and families.

4. How are teams selected?

Tryouts will be conducted for each age specific level (i.e. Bantam Minor). All players wishing to participate, originating from either organization, will attend the joint tryouts. Independent evaluators appointed by the Coalition Committee, along with the designated coach of the particular team, will evaluate at the tryouts and score/rank each skater and goalie. The Coalition Committee and the designated Tier 1 AAA coach will coordinate to select the top skaters and goalies for placement on the Tier 1 AAA Team, with that team designated a Coalition Team and being registered under the RYH charter.

The next highest ranked grouping of players, as selected by the Coalition Committee and the Tier 2 AA designated coach, will be selected for placement on the Tier 2 AA team, with that team designated a Coalition Team and registered under Grizzlies charter.

Additional teams may be formed after the 1st pick and 2nd pick teams. These additional teams will be non-Coalition teams, and will be registered under RYH.

5. How much say does the designated coach have in the selection of the team?

Quite a lot. The implementation of independent evaluators at tryouts is done to offer an objective scoring and ranking system, and to support the coach in roster construction. Once the coach identifies a roster he/she would like to select, the Coalition Committee will review those selections against the scoring and rankings derived from the evaluation process.

If the two are aligned, the Coalition Committee will approve that roster. If the two are not aligned, the coach will have an opportunity to explain the justification for the roster he/she would like to select. During these discussions, many variables can come into play, and will be considered. If insufficient justification exists to approve the coach's roster, the Coalition Committee will make recommendations for adjustments to the proposed roster, prior to approval. Final roster selections and approvals will be the responsibility of the Coalition Committee.

6. What if I am currently a RYH or Grizzlies family and I am selected for placement on a team that will be registered under a charter and organization that I am not currently a member of?

All Coalition teams will be administered by the Coalition Committee as one hockey governing body. The specific charter is simply a place to register a team. The RYH and Grizzlies organizations are developing hockey programming guidelines and budgets that will instill a hockey culture that is seamless between the two organizations, and with harmonized financial expectations. A player and family is not a member of RYH solely or the Grizzlies solely, rather they are members of the Coalition, and will benefit from the joint administration of the Coalition Committee with strong support from the RYH and Grizzlies organizations.

7. What uniforms will the teams be wearing?

The Coalition Committee is currently meeting with potential sponsors for the upcoming season. A primary goal of the Coalition is to keep the cost of participation in hockey neutral. To that end, sponsors are being sought to offset the cost of apparel, development programming and other costs, and also to allow this unification of two organizations under one cohesive and recognizable brand. More information will be shared as sponsorship agreements are finalized.

8. When will you announce the coaches?

Coaching selection meetings are presently being conducted. As coaches are designated for Coalition and non-Coalition teams, information will be shared. Historically, coaches have been formally announced at a Town Hall Meeting at the end of February.

9. Please assure us that kids will not be held back just because their parent is a coach and you need more coaches for non-TB teams.

Please see answer to #4. A fair, objective tryout is the primary objective of the Coalition Committee. The Coalition's main goal and focus is to complete placement of players on appropriate teams, based solely on merit and performance.