

## Updated Coalition Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (3/10/17)

**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 Peewee 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 1<sup>st</sup> pick and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 selections for most Coalition teams have been announced and are available on the RYH and Grizzlies websites. These coaches were also presented at the recent Town Hall Meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Information on coaches for three AA Coalition teams and other non-Coalition teams will be shared during the tryouts. Prospective coaches for these teams are identified, but out of respect for the fact that sons and daughters of these prospective coaches will be trying out for Coalition teams, we will not be naming these coaches at this time. The opportunity for a player to make the top Coalition teams is paramount. When tryouts are completed and/or additional non-Coalition teams are formed, we already have coaches with experience in place to guide these teams, including 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pick teams should player numbers at tryouts warrant.*

**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.*

**10. Why are Bantam and Midget tryouts scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>?**

*USA Hockey mandates that we cannot start tryouts any earlier than April 12<sup>th</sup> this year due to the 48 hour rule after the National Tournament. We are aware of the constraints we are under, but we have no ability to move the date up due to the ruling. We approached WNYAHL (our governing body) regarding this issue months ago- there is no flexibility with this start date. Tryouts will commence on April 12<sup>th</sup> and players will be selected to teams as early as April 13<sup>th</sup>. We will likely see 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pick teams at each age level conclude on the 14<sup>th</sup> or the 24<sup>th</sup>.*

**11. Will there be a difference in cost between the two organizations (i.e.- will it cost more to play on a AAA RYH team vs. a AA Grizzly team or vice versa)?**

*The Coalition Teams will be following the same programming at age specific levels so the development opportunities, ice allotment and overall cost of participation will be identical from one organization to the other. Coaches will be following a baseline program drafted by the Coalition Committee which follows the USA Hockey ADM model of development.*

**12. Many high school freshmen are interested in playing for their high school team. Are you going to allow your Bantam Major Players to participate with JV and Varsity teams if they are listed as Full Season Teams?**

*The coaches listed at the 2003 Bantam Major AAA 14U TB and Bantam Major AA 14U TB are both going to schedule the season accordingly to allow players to participate with their respective high school teams should the opportunity exist. While not currently recognized as a Split-Season age level, the Coalition Committee and designated coaches understand the benefits to the hockey players from participating with their high school teams and will coordinate season plan to maximize this development potential.*

**13. What is the player movement policy? How will players be able to play up to higher level teams or utilized as alternates?**

*Play Up Policy*

*In order to allow for players with exceptional talent an opportunity to play to a higher level, the following policy will be utilized:*

- A player may be considered to play up on a Tier I AAA team that is no more than one birth year older than their age-appropriate level*
- The request shall be jointly initiated by the Coaches of both the player's age-appropriate birth year team and the one year older birth year team.*

*Both Coaches must agree for the request to be considered by the Coalition Committee*

- *The player will be evaluated at tryouts by Coalition Committee*
- *The player must rank in the top six forwards, top four defensemen, or top two goalies, to be considered as a play-up candidate*
- *All final decisions regarding playing up are in the discretion of the Coalition Committee*

#### *Horizontal Development*

*The Coalition encourages the development of its players by allowing them the chance to practice and occasionally play with teams other than their own. To further that goal, Coaches will invite (2) players per team to at least (1) practice per week to skate with next age level or Tier level team. Participant players will be identified and agreed to by both Coaches, and scheduled accordingly.*

#### *Alternate Policy*

- *Due to WNYAHL rules, TB teams at Tier I AAA and Tier II AA levels can only have minor players at the same Tier level play as alternates (i.e.- Tier I AAA Major TB team can only use Tier I AAA Minor players as alternates). These alternates must be rostered with the same organization, due to WNYAHL rules.*
- *Minor teams may use each other's players as long as they are rostered as alternates (i.e., Tier II AA Minor player playing as an alternate on Tier I Minor AAA team).*
- *The Coalition Committee will not allow a Tier I AAA player to play on a Tier II AA team unless there is an extenuating circumstance.*
- *For teams playing in WNYAHL, an alternate may play up to 10 games with the non-primary team. Upon playing an 11<sup>th</sup> game, they become ineligible for the original team. For teams playing an independent schedule, this restriction does not apply*
- *All final decisions regarding alternates are in the discretion of the Coalition Committee.*

#### **14. Are Spring Hockey and August Training Camps mandatory? I play spring sports and play summer travel hockey.**

*Both Spring Hockey and August Training Camps are included in the baseline training program for all Coalition Teams Pee Wee and under. Bantam and Midget teams will have summer ice and camps at the discretion of the coach. Spring Hockey and August Training Camps will be subject to additional fees for participation, and are not included in Coalition team season fees.*

#### *Spring Hockey*

When is it?

*Spring hockey will run for 8 weeks starting the week after tryouts and will consist of 1 clinic and 1 3v3 or 4v4 each week. The clinics will be offered on two or three different days to insure they do not conflict with spring sports or school activities. The 3v3 or 4v4 games will be on either Friday nights or Sunday Mornings for the same reason.*

Where is it?

*Clinics and games will be run at both Village Sports and Bill Grays. Players are free to attend either location.*

What is it?

*Spring hockey clinics are run by our hockey development staff and consist of fun skill development activities and small games. Players make substantial gains in their skill sets while having a lot of fun at the same time. We will be sending a weekly newsletter outlining the emphasis for the week and what activities we will be doing. We work around all spring sports schedules.*

*3v3 or 4v4 games are played either half ice or  $\frac{3}{4}$  ice and are played with no coaches (only a parent or staff to switch the kids) and a ref to drop the puck and call penalties. We have the music on and the players are encouraged to try the new moves they learned in clinic that week. It's amazing to see the development in the players when they are able to play without worrying about the score or what the coach is going to say.*

Summary

*Our Spring Hockey is a critical component of our overall program. We encourage players to play on spring/summer hockey teams as a compliment to this program, not a replacement for it.*

August Training Camps

*These training camps are included in the baseline training program for Pee Wee and under Coalition teams. They are designed to get the players back together as a team and to learn how we will be functioning as an organization. There will be lots of team building activities and time spent working on character building designed around John Wooden's Pyramid of Success. Since all teams of the same age group will be at camp together, they will learn to respect each other and support not only their teammates but other Coalition teams as well. This week sets the base for what will be a great year for the team and the organization.*

*For your vacation planning purposes, camp dates are as follows:*

*Peewees – week of August 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Squirts – Week of August 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Mites – Week of August 28th (Mites are not currently Coalition teams)*

*Camp hours are 9a – 4p with extended care for those working families  
Friday is only a half day 9a - 12noon and includes the battle for the Candy Cup!*

**15. What percentage of games and practices can I be expected to play at Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex and Village Sports?**

*Final ice scheduling including practice and game ice will not take place until after tryouts, so at this time it is difficult to give an exact percentage of how often teams will participate at each facility. In the interest of giving families a benchmark, we can share the following information:*

- *Village Sports will be utilized as a development center for the benefit of all Coalition Teams. The facility is equipped with areas dedicated to specialized skills training, shooting rooms and a Parisi Training Center to maximize the quality of a development session at a single facility.*
- *Given the formation of the Coalition, the organizations now have the benefit of scheduling five (5) rinks between two separate facilities. This will allow the Coalition to maximize flexibility and desired practice times for respective age groups between the two facilities.*
- *The majority of games for the Coalition Teams will be played at BGRIP, subject to availability of ice.*

**16. Will the results of the evaluations at tryouts be shared with players/parents for their ability to assess their level of play?**

*The results of evaluations performed at tryouts will be shared with the involved coaches, designated evaluators and the Coalition Committee, but will not be shared with players or parents. The intended purpose of these evaluations is to separate the players within the group that is on the ice accordingly to ability, not for individual player development. Evaluations scoring will be based on six (6) criteria, allowing evaluators to assess how players rank within the overall population on the ice for a given tryout age level. Later, during the season, the Coalition Coaches and Hockey Directors will be performing measured development analyses for each player, in order to build individual development plans. More information will be shared on this as Coalition Committee planning develops further.*

**17. What is the cost to participate with a Coalition Team?**

*The cost to participate in a travel hockey program is a direct function of practice ice allotments, game ice allotments, and the number of players on a team. For those who participated with Rochester Youth Hockey for the 2016-2017 season, the baseline ice allotment across the organization was 44 practice hours for Squirts, 49 practice hours for Peewees and above, plus 16 home games per team.*

*For the 2017-2018 hockey season, the Coalition Committee has increased the Coalition teams baseline (1st and 2nd pick) ice allotments at the Peewee and Bantam levels to 60 hours and 85 hours respectively. There is no change in Squirt level programming or for any non-coalition teams. These baselines were increased to facilitate fielding the most competitive teams and to maximize development by*

*creating training standards and consistency. The new baselines are in-line with competing organizations in the greater WNY Area and also in-line with USA Hockey recommended guidelines.*

**Does this baseline adjustment result in a significant cost increase to families?**

*In some cases, predominantly for families that were previously placed on teams that stayed with the prior baseline allocations, there will be a cost increase. However, in most cases it will not, because many prior season RYH Tier 1 coaches and some RYH Tier 2 coaches were already increasing practice hours, recognizing the need to be more competitive and further develop players. For these families, the additional expense was already included within the team fund obligation and/or the team ice bill payments, so the net effect should be minimal. For families whose coaches bought no additional ice last season, had 16 players on the roster, and received no sponsorship, and who have players on a Coalition team this upcoming season, the following monetary changes can be expected: no or minimal increase for Squirts, approximately \$225 per player increase for Peewees, and approximately \$600 per player increase for Bantams. Midgets are not listed because many of our teams are High School friendly, and thus will have variable ice demands.*

*Should families on eventual non-coalition teams desire additional team ice practice time or development, they should feel free speak to their respective coach. This season, as in past seasons, the coach/team will have the ability to increase training hours through the team fund.*

**18. Will there be a registration fee per player and then a separate team ice bill?**

**What does the registration fee include, and not include?**

*No, in a change from prior seasons, for the 2017-18 season there will not be an additional team ice bill from the organization/Coalition. The registration fee will include all game ice, practice ice, practice attire, referee costs and administrative fees. This fee will cover the baseline programming for all Coalition and non-Coalition teams, and will invariably be greater than the prior year's registration fee because it will include sums formerly invoiced to teams in the additional team ice bill. Please note, however, that like in seasons past, the registration fee will not include tournaments, team events, Coach stipend, spring/summer camps, off-ice training, etc. These additional costs will be part of the team fund established by the coach for the respective team and age level, and into which families will pay separately. For those families that have participated in travel hockey in years past, this structure is normal and customary.*