

2014-2015 CHC Rules & Policies

Releases, Wildcards, Non-Citizens, and High School Players

TO ALL CHC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS:

Below are the current CHC Rules and Policies on player releases, out of state "wildcard" players, non-US citizens, and high school players. Attached for your use is CHC Player Release form for the 2014-15 season. This form must be used for any of your players that are transferring to another CHC member program, or an in-state non-CHC program, or out of state program.

RELEASE PROCEDURES:

Players may register with their prior season program or any open member program. There is no limit on the number of transferring players a program may accept, HOWEVER, transferring players must obtain a Release from their prior program before they are eligible to participate and be rostered with a new program. A player may still tryout with several programs if he so chooses, but he **MAY NOT BE ROSTERED NOR PARTICIPATE** with a new program until a release from his prior program has been issued. To clear up some confusion that existed in prior years, **releases must be obtained for ALL transferring players including out of state residents; players moving to Connecticut from out of state, or from another country; Midget age players, girls, and players transferring from other CHC or USA Hockey programs.**

OUTGOING RELEASES: Players wishing to transfer from their prior program should contact that program's president to request a release. Players/families who have no outstanding financial obligations to their prior program for the 2013-14 season (or prior seasons), and wish to transfer to a new program, **MUST** be issued a Release upon their request. **NOTE:** If your program has held tryouts for the 2014-15 season, and a player has committed to one of your travel teams, then releasing the player is at the discretion of the program. Letter of Commitment for the current season supersedes player's right to a release.

OUTGOING RELEASES TO CHC RECOGNIZED TIER 1 TEAMS: As long as they were in financial good standing at the end of the 2013-14 season, players requesting releases to CHC recognized Tier 1 programs, CT Wolfpack and MidFairfield at the youth level, and any Girls Tier 1 team (currently CT Polar Bears, CT Northern Lights and MidFairfield CT Stars), must be released regardless of any prior commitment to a team/program for the 2014-15 season.

INCOMING RELEASES: Releases for players new to your program must be obtained and filed prior to that player being rostered or participating with your program. **ALL RELEASES MUST BE OBTAINED AND FILED PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1. NO RELEASE MAY BE ISSUED AFTER THAT DATE, UNLESS A TEAM BECOMES DEFUNCT, OR MERGES WITH A TEAM FROM ANOTHER PROGRAM; OR A PLAYER MOVES A SUBSTANTIAL DISTANCE DURING THE SEASON.** Any such requests for releases after November 1st must be presented to the CHC Eligibility Committee for approval, and under no circumstances may a player transfer to another program after the December meeting deadline for roster changes.

Releases must be executed by the program president (or authorized program officer), and emailed to the CHC Eligibility Chair as soon as the request is received. Penalties for participating with, and/or being rostered with a new program prior to obtaining a release are still in effect, and can include suspension of the player, team or program from State competition. The Release List is published & updated regularly on the CHC website. If a player in question does not appear on the list, please send me an email, as it may have been obtained between updates

OUT OF STATE RESIDENTS - WILDCARD RULE:

The "Wildcard" rule limits the roster of any one CHC Tier I, Tier II, Tier III, Tier IV (Open Division) or house league team to include only **5** "wildcard" players. A "Wildcard" player is defined as:

A player whose primary residence is outside of Connecticut excluding "Grandfathered" players (see below)

Out of state residents who were first registered with CHC programs in 2004-05, through 2013-14 season, and classified as WILDCARDS, are still WILDCARDS. They *are not* grandfathered players.

The following players *are NOT* "Wildcards," and for the purpose of eligibility, are to be considered as CT residents:

1. "Grandfathered" players - any out of state resident who was properly rostered with a member CHC program in the 2003-04 season. Additionally, any female out of state resident who was properly rostered with a CHC program in the 2002-03 season. Siblings born before April 27, 2004 will also be permanently grandfathered. In order to retain their grandfathered status, such players must remain rostered with a CHC program. If they return to their home state program, and then wish to come back to CHC, they will be Wildcards on their return.

2. Non-resident players who are full time boarding students at a Connecticut prep school.

Bottom line: if a player resides outside of the State of Connecticut and does not attend a CT Prep school as a boarding student, and was not properly rostered in a CHC member program for the 2003-04 season (2002-03, 2003-04 for girls), and played continually in Connecticut since, he or she is a "Wildcard."

Programs may request an exception to the "Wildcard," out of state resident limit per team for their Tier III, or Tier IV (Open Division) teams *only*. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Eligibility Committee. The Committee will rule on each request based on the merits of the case, and its effect on the viability of the team or program as a whole. Please note that the intent of the rule change to allow programs to request an exception to the out of state limit is to help programs and teams who are in danger of folding due to lack of available resident players. It is NOT intended for teams to replace a CT resident player with a stronger out of state resident. We ask all programs to abide by the intent of this rule

NON-US CITIZENS:

USA Hockey has very specific rules on non-US citizens playing on USA Hockey registered teams. Exact USA Hockey rule is below, summarized as follows based on situations that normally occur in CT:

1. Non-citizens residing in the US with a parent are eligible to participate as long as they hold one of visa types noted in USA Hockey rule. No roster limits on non-citizens residing in US with parents holding specified visas.
2. Non-citizens residing in the US without a parent (boarding prep school students and exchange students) must hold F1 or J student visa. Roster limits:
 - a. Girls National Bound Tier 1 & Tier 2 teams (U14, U16, U19): Limit of 2 players on any roster.
 - b. Youth (Boys/Coed) National Bound Tier 1 & Tier 2 teams (Bantam, Midget Minor, Midget Major): Limit of 4 players on any one team.
3. USA Hockey Written Transfer, either Canadian or International depending on players citizenship, must be submitted to and approved by USA Hockey PRIOR to the player being rostered or participating with a team.

USA HOCKEY RULES – NON-CITIZENS

(2) Citizenship Eligibility

(a) Only U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in the National Player Development Program.

(b) The classifications in Section C.(1) above are restricted to U.S. citizens, subject to the following exceptions:

1. Players who are citizens of another country and **residing in the U.S. with a parent** shall be considered eligible if the parent(s) holds one of the following legal documents: Alien Registration Receipt Card or Permanent Resident Card. The player shall also be considered eligible if the parent(s) hold one of the following non-immigrant temporary visas: A. Government Official; E. Treaty Trader or Investor; G. Representative to International Organization; H. Temporary Worker; I. Foreign Information Media Representative; J. Exchange Alien; L. Intra-Company Transferee; M. Non-Academic Student; O. Aliens of Extraordinary Ability; P. Athletes and Entertainers; Q. Cultural Exchange; R. Religious Workers; and TN. Professional.
2. For players who are citizens of another country and are **residing in the U.S. without a parent**, the player must hold an Alien Registration Receipt Card or Permanent Resident Card or an F. Academic Student classification visa or J. Exchange Alien visa.
3. However, (1) all girls' national championship-bound teams are restricted to only two (2) players, and (2) commencing with the 2013-14 season, all youth national championship-bound teams shall be restricted to only four players, in either case who are non-U.S. citizens temporarily residing in the U.S. under any combination of the following immigration visa categories: F. Academic Students; J. Exchange Alien Visa; P. Athletes and Entertainers [excluding their spouses and children under visa category P-4]; Category M. Non-Academic Student and Q. International Cultural Exchange Program participants. This restriction does not apply to non-U.S. citizens temporarily residing in the U.S. under category P-4, referenced above, or other visa categories not referenced above, excluding category B. Temporary Visitor.

(c) Any team with a player on its roster who is a non-U.S. citizen should make immediate contact with its respective district registrar to review credentials and determine the player's eligibility. All players must provide the following documentation:

1. **Release** A release from the player's home team/association authorizing the player to compete for the USA Hockey member team; and

2. IIHF/Canadian Transfer A youth written transfer form must be completed for all noncitizen players (male and female) under 18 years of age who register with a USA Hockey member program. An IIHF/Canadian transfer form must be completed for all noncitizen players (male or female) ages 18 and over.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLAYERS:

Once secondary school players join their secondary school teams, their eligibility to continue with a CHC Youth or Girls team (dual participation) shall be determined by their secondary school's athletic governing body. Although CHC no longer prohibits players from playing with their secondary school and a CHC member program team, the CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference), the governing body for all public and most parochial schools in the state, **prohibits** dual participation. Once a player is rostered on a CIAC member school's BOYS roster at any level (club, JV, Varsity), he/she may no longer participate with any outside hockey program, including any USA Hockey or CHC member teams. This prohibition is in effect until the individual school's final game of the year, including high school state tournaments. Once a school has completely finished its season, the player may return to his CHC member team, provided that he was not removed from that team's roster. Any player who is removed cannot be added back onto your roster after December 31, 2014. Please note that CIAC prohibition of dual rostering does not apply to GIRLS high school teams, as the CIAC does not recognize Girls Hockey. Girls who play on BOYS high school teams are subject dual participation prohibition. Players should always check with their secondary school coach or athletic director prior to returning to any youth team. Below are the actual CIAC rules.

CIAC RULES:

24. After the date of the school's first contest for a given sport, may a freshman, JV, or varsity team member practice or play with an outside team?

No. After the date of the school's first contest, participation in any of these activities would constitute a violation. However, there are some exceptions to the rule for students that participate "unattached" in the individual sports of golf, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, indoor track and outdoor track. Please refer to the exception to Rule 1.1.a. for select sports only on page 70 in the CIAC Handbook.

25. After the first contest for a given sport may an athlete tryout for an outside team or attend a showcase or audition for a professional team in the same branch of athletics?

No. After the date of the school's first contest in that sport the athlete would be in violation of the in-season rules and would lose their eligibility if they participate.

26. A student opts to play junior hockey rather than play for the high school team. In January he leaves the junior team and wants to join the high school team. Is this permissible under CIAC eligibility rules?

No. After the date of the school's first contest in the high school hockey season, a student who practices or plays with an outside team cannot join the high school team.

35. When may a student-athlete participate with an outside team in the same team sport?

- a. After his/her team plays its final game and does not qualify for the CIAC tournament.
- b. After his/her final regular season contest if he/she is not on the CIAC tournament roster.
- c. After his/her team (if on the tournament roster) is eliminated from the CIAC tournament.

If a student-athlete participates with an outside team, he/she may not return to his/her high school team the remainder of that season without being in violation.

If you any questions regarding player eligibility, release procedures, or are having difficulty obtaining a release, please contact me immediately.

Thank you

Kathy Ludwig

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