

2020-2021 CHC Rules & Policies

Releases, Out of State Residents, Non-Citizens, Dual Rostering Girls, and High School Players CIAC Rules

TO ALL CHC and INDEPENDENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS:

Below are the current CHC Rules and Policies on player releases, out of state resident players, non-US citizens, dual rostersing of girls, and CIAC high school player rules. Attached for your use is CHC Player Release form for the 2020-21 season. This form must be used for any of your players that are transferring to another CHC member program, an in-state non-CHC program (Independent), or out of state program. I have also included the USA Hockey Rules regarding financial disputes as they apply to releases.

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 without a release if he/she so chooses, but he/she MAY NOT BE ROSTERED NOR PARTICIPATE with a new program until a release from his prior program has been issued. **Releases must be obtained for ALL transferring players (travel, house, learn to play programs) 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 2019-20 season (or prior seasons), and wish to transfer to a new program, MUST be issued a Release upon their request. The player's new program must be entered on the Release Form – we will not accept blank/blanket releases. **NOTE:** If your program has held tryouts for the 2020-21 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 2019-20 season, players requesting releases on or before May 1, 2020 to **CHC recognized Tier 1** programs or teams, must be released regardless of any prior commitment to a team/program for the 2020-21 season. Any season fees or deposit paid by player requesting release must be refunded. Tryout fees are non-refundable. As of this date, the CHC Tier 1 Youth programs are MidFairfield and Hartford Jr. Wolfpack. The Girls Tier 1 teams for the 2020-21 season are yet to be finalized but as of this date, will include Mid Fairfield CT Stars, CT Polar Bears and Watertown CT Jr Eagles at U16 & U19 and possibly other age levels.

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 CHC 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:

Effective with the 2017-18 season, CHC adopted the USA Hockey Rule regarding non-resident players.

A complete copy of the USA Hockey rule is attached to this document.

"A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate (CHC), must register all of its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration."

Simply put, as an example, if a CHC member program, or Independent team registering through CHC, has 20 players, 7 can be from CT, 5 from Massachusetts, 5 from New York, and 3 from New Jersey and the team is eligible to play in CHC, as the greatest percentage of players reside in CT. If the number of players from any other single state exceeds the number of CT resident players, then the team is ineligible to compete in CHC.

The following players for the purpose of eligibility, are to be considered as CT residents per CHC and USA Hockey rules:

- 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, he or she is a non-resident player.

Programs may request an exception to the out of state resident limit per team for their 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 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. PLEASE NOTE: No non-citizen player requiring a Written Transfer is permitted to participate on any team until the Written Transfer form and required proof of residency is submitted to USA Hockey Transfer Department.

- 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.

- 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:
 - Girls National Bound Tier 1 & Tier 2 teams (U14, U16, U19): Limit of 2 players on any roster.
 - Youth (Boys/Coed) National Bound Tier 1 & Tier 2 teams (Bantam, Midget O15, U16 & U18): Limit of 4 players on any one team.
- 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. Written Transfers for the 2020-21 season should be available by July
- **Players in the US on a “Visitors” B-1 or B-2 visa are not eligible to participate on any USA Hockey team.**

USA HOCKEY RULES – NON-CITIZENS

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 (4) 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.

DUAL ROSTERING - GIRLS:

Effective with the 2017-18 season, CHC adopted the USA Hockey rule for Girls to be dual rostered on a youth and an all girl team.

Dual-rostered females playing on youth and girls'/women's teams may continue playing on both teams until the end of the regular season. However, the player must declare in writing to her appropriate registrar, or his/her designee, by December 31 on which team she wishes to be eligible to advance to the state, regional and national tournaments. Under no circumstances may a dual rostered female player participate in more than ONE state (CHC), District or National tournament.

If the player does not indicate on which team she wishes to be eligible for state, regional and national tournaments, the CHC USA Hockey Affiliate Registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

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.

OTHER USA HOCKEY RULES & REGULATIONS:

IX DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (p 155)

I. Age Classifications

(3) Participation in Older Divisions of District or National Championships – 2017-18 Season and Beyond

Beginning in the 2017-18 season, no player 12 years of age or younger (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season) is eligible to play on a team intending or declared to compete in the District or National Championships or playoffs leading thereto. For the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons for Girls 14U Tier II only, an Affiliate may permit up to three players that are 12 years of age for the current season (as defined in the Youth/Junior Age Classification chart in the Annual Guide) to be rostered on a Girls 14U Tier II team intending or declared to compete in the District or National Championships or playoffs leading thereto if the Affiliate finds that either:

- (a) The younger player(s) are from the same local geographic area as the team they intend to play for and are needed to field a Girls 14U Tier II team with a roster size recommended by the ADM, or
- (b) There is no 12U girls team available in the player's home local geographic area.

A player 13 years of age or older may play on a youth or girls' team in an older classification at a District or National Championship Tournament only if the applicable Affiliate's rules or decisions, and the applicable local program's rules or decisions, permit that player to do so. A player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a team in an older classification in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission to play in an older classification. In the event a youth or girls player has been denied the permission to play in an older classification in the Youth or Girls' District or National Championships on a team in an Affiliate other than the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the National Championship Appeal Committee.

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

Kathy Ludwig
CHC Eligibility Committee Chair
CHC District I Commissioner
203-762-5356 home • 203-247-3270 cell
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kmludwig@optonline.net

USA Hockey Rule References:

USA Hockey Rule Regarding Players' Residency and Team Eligibility:

C. Registration

- (1) A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration. An Affiliate may require that teams registered within its Affiliate have a minimum percentage of players that reside in the Affiliate (or similarly, an Affiliate may place a limitation on out-of-Affiliate or non-resident players).
- (2) Teams that are not part of a sanctioned Member Program but which are approved by the Affiliate (an "Independent Team"), must register in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of its players reside. Independent Teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.
- (3) In the event that a Member Program/Independent Team have equal percentages of players that reside in two or more Affiliates, the Affiliates involved shall promptly convene and decide as to where that Member Program/Independent Team shall register.
- (4) Notwithstanding that application of the above rules would require that a Member Program or Independent Team register in a particular Affiliate, two neighboring Affiliates, with the Member Program's or Independent Team's consent, may agree that a particular Member Program or Independent Team may register through either of those two Affiliates.
- (5) If there is a dispute between one or more Affiliates and a Member Program or Independent Team regarding the proper Affiliate in which a Member Program or Independent Team must register, then the Member Program, Independent Team and any affected Affiliate shall seek resolution of such dispute through an appeal to the USA Hockey Youth Council.
- (6) For the purposes of determining where a player resides under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, absent specific Affiliate rules regarding residency, the residency status of a minor age player shall be the same as at least one of the minor's parents or legal guardians. Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending school elsewhere, the location of the school shall be considered the player's residence. Any dispute under this section regarding where a minor age player resides shall be resolved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar(s), in consultation with the Assistant Executive Director of Member Services of USA Hockey. There shall be no appeal following such determination. The residency determination for the purposes of this rule does not affect the player's residency for the purposes of representation at player development camps.

USA HOCKEY

Procedures Applicable To Participant Ineligibility Determinations Based on Financial Disputes

1. Decisions Internal to the Program

A local program may, pursuant to its internal procedures, determine that a player that is delinquent in dues or fees owed to the program is not eligible to continue participating in the program during such delinquency. Such determination shall only apply to eligibility within that program.

2. Disputed Claims and Extension of Ineligibility Determination to Other Programs

In the event a local program desires to cause a player to be ineligible to participate throughout the program's applicable Affiliate based on a determination that the player that is delinquent in dues or fees owed to the program, such extension of the suspension or ineligibility must comply with the procedures of the applicable Affiliate, which at a minimum shall include the following:

a. Notice Required

The local program must deliver a written notice to the player's parents (or other person(s) responsible for payment) that, at a minimum: (i) describes the nature of the delinquent fees (e.g., membership dues, ice fees, equipment/uniform fees, etc.), (ii) states the amount due, (iii) advises that the family must notify the local program in writing within thirty (30) days if it disputes the financial obligation, and (iv) advises that, if the full amount is not paid within thirty (30) days of the parent's receipt of the notice, the local program may in its discretion seek to enforce the liability for the financial obligation and have the player deemed ineligible throughout the local program's Affiliate Association.

b. Discussion Period

During the thirty (30) day period, the parties may discuss the matter and seek to amicably resolve any disputed amounts and provisions for payment. The parties are encouraged to amicably resolve any disputed debts, and if at any time the local program and player enter into a written agreement to resolve the debt and also making provisions for payment, then the player shall become immediately eligible to participate in all USA Hockey programs.

c. Financial Obligation Not Disputed

Upon expiration of the thirty (30) day period described above, if (i) the parties have not otherwise resolved the matter, (ii) the amount claimed in the local program's notice has not been paid, and (iii) ***the local program has not received written notice from the player's parents that it disputes the financial obligation***, then the local program may request that the applicable Affiliate Association deem the player to be ineligible to participate in any program within the Affiliate (which request shall include proof of compliance with A-C of this subsection). In this circumstance, the Affiliate Association may extend the ineligibility of the player throughout the Affiliate in accordance with the Affiliate's procedures.

d. Financial Obligation Disputed

If the amount of the financial obligation has not been paid or otherwise resolved, and ***the local program has received written notice from the player's parents that it disputes the financial obligation***, then the local program may seek extension of the ineligibility throughout the Affiliate in accordance with the Affiliate's procedures, provided that, the local program shall take reasonable affirmative steps to enforce the obligation. The Affiliate may deny the local program's request in the Affiliate's discretion. Any determination by the Affiliate that the player is ineligible throughout the Affiliate shall not be a determination that the debt is owed or the amount of such debt, but only that the player is ineligible based on the existence of a disputed debt.

e. Any dispute about whether these procedures have been followed shall be decided in a hearing conducted by the Affiliate pursuant to the Unified Procedure, and shall be appealable to the Executive Committee pursuant to Bylaw 10.E. The hearing and appeal shall only address whether the procedures set forth in this Bylaw 10.(j)(2) have been followed, and shall in no way address the liability for or amount of the financial obligations.