



Youth House/Rec Teams Defined

Over the past few years USA Hockey has moved away from labels like AAA, AA, A, or B, etc., in defining a team's "level" of play. This was done to reflect the lessened focus on winning and championships and to place greater emphasis on player development and enjoyment of the game. Instead, USAH now uses three designations in choosing the type of roster to use:

1. Tier I (national bound)
2. Tier II (national bound)
3. House/Rec (in-house teams)

TAHA currently has rules governing roster eligibility for Tier I teams/organizations and for Tier II teams. These rules and requirements can be found in the TAHA Guidebook.

House/Rec was originally intended to serve as a means to roster players and teams competing "in house" hockey programs and little thought was given to placing any restrictions or requirements for teams using this type of roster. Even today, some 70%-80% of teams using a house/rec roster are teams comprised of non-tier level players competing in in-house or local/city travel leagues.

In recent years and with the advent of tighter restrictions on Tier designations, some organizations and teams have taken advantage of the lack of restrictions on house/rec rosters to create a "workaround" to being designated Tier I. In some locations house/rec teams are recruited from across the country in an attempt to assemble Tier I caliber teams that compete in "AAA" tournaments without having earned that designation or following the same rules as legitimate Tier I teams.

In short, these "nationally recruited" house/rec teams draw legitimate Tier I and II players away from true Tier teams and fracture the competitive pyramid that USA Hockey strives to make available.

TAHA (along with several other USA Hockey Affiliates) believes the House/Rec roster designation should be used solely as intended and only by those teams comprised of local area players competing either in a rink-based in-house hockey program or a local/city travel league.

Effective June 1st, 2014 TAHA will require that:

1. All House/Rec teams shall be community based as stated by USA Hockey and TAHA. House/Rec rosters will be comprised of in-state players whose family's domicile or permanent residence is in the same local community as the registered TAHA Member Association's home rink. No billeted or out-of-state players are allowed to be rostered on a House/Rec team. If a player does not have a House/Rec team in his/her local community such player may petition to play for the next closest community that does have a House/Rec team in an appropriate age division. **Such petition shall include the age division for the upcoming season, address of family's domicile or permanent residence, address of nearest rink, name of organization and level of team from prior season, and name/address of organization and level of team that is being requested for**

the upcoming season. All such information shall be submitted to TAHA's House Section President prior to tryouts.

2. All teams submitting a House/Rec roster will be permitted to attend USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments and compete in skill divisions at or below the "AA" level.
3. House/Rec teams wishing to attend tournaments during the regular season (August to April) must submit the certified roster to the House Section President in advance for review and approval.
4. House/Rec rosters may also be used by summer teams formed and operating after the end of the prior season (defined as the day after USAH Youth Nationals concludes) and the beginning of the next season (defined as August 1st).

Rinks and Member Association teams who primarily operate in border towns or within 75 miles of a neighboring state may request exemptions to this policy.

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