



TO: AAHA Member Clubs –  
AAHA Rink Managers -  
AAHA / USA Hockey Registered Coaches

FROM: Glenn Hefferan, Affiliate President

RE: Tryouts & Player Contracts/Agreements

DATE: March 15, 2017

CC: AAHA Board of Directors

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The purpose of this memo is to reiterate AAHA Rules and Regulations with respect to “TRYOUTS” & “Player Contracts” and to provide appropriate guidance to Coaches, Teams, Clubs, Associations, Hockey Club Administrators and Rink Operators as to what is appropriate for AAHA members regarding these activities.

The language below is excerpted from the AAHA Rules & Regulations and it is about conducting tryouts at the appropriate periods of time.

Page 30 – ARTICLE VI – TEAMS, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS – Subsection H: TRYOUTS

*(3) No Tryouts Prior to 48-Hours After Nationals. No team (s), organizations (s) or program may hold tryouts, evaluations, training camps, skills sessions, or any other program that has players who were not registered with that team, organization or program the previous season, prior to 48 hours after the end of USA Hockey's National Championships without being in violation of this Rule.*

*(4) Penalties for Teams & Coaches Violating Try-Out Rules. Team (s), organization (s), or program (s) found in violation of these bylaws, may lose their privilege of being eligible to compete at Districts and toward a national championship for a period of up to three (3) years. Coaches found in violation may be suspended up to five (5) years*

The AAHA has approved dates for Tryouts. Those dates are posted on the AAHA Website ([www.atlantic-district.org](http://www.atlantic-district.org)). Tryout dates for the 12U level and below have been approved to take place **PRIOR** to the USA Hockey National Championships as these levels do not compete for a National Championship.

For the purposes of “Spring and Summer Team Tryouts” that date is April 24, 2017. There is a distinction between “Camps & Clinics” and “Spring Team Tryouts”.

Tryouts for spring teams being conducted PRIOR TO APRIL 24, 2017 is not sanctioned activity by the AAHA, and therefore not sanctioned by USA Hockey. **The Affiliate will not issue rosters for those teams.** To obtain USA Hockey rosters, all Spring / Summer Team tryouts must occur on or after April 24, 2017. Some groups may have already conducted tryouts and announce that they plan on attending some USA Hockey sanctioned Spring and /or Summer Tournaments.

AAHA Clubs are not precluded from operating camps and clinics for the benefit of current rostered players of the same Club. Furthermore, the AAHA recognizes the right of Clubs to grant **PERMISSION** of their USAH Registered players to participate in other AAHA Member Club camps and clinics. **PERMISSION** shall be in the form of written letter or email by the Club President or equivalent to attend another specific Club's camps or clinics and said letter should be directed to the Club President of the Club operating the camp or clinic.



**RINK OPERATED CAMPS AND CLINICS** – Rinks that operate camps and clinics with the expectation that the camps and clinics are under the sanctioning of the AAHA and USA Hockey, are compelled to follow the same rules as Clubs, particularly where the Rink owns and operates the Travel Club within the rink. If the Rink is operating the camp or clinic outside the sanctioning of the AAHA and USA Hockey, the AAHA has no jurisdiction in those cases.

**PLAYER AGREEMENT/CONTRACTS:** I have been advised that some Clubs may be contracting players for the coming season, prior to the appropriate tryout dates. This violates the policy that provides releases to all players after USA Hockey Nationals or our appropriate tryout dates. Organizations that are found to be in violation will face penalties including but not limited to; loss of District and National Tournament eligibility.

All AAHA Registered Youth-age Players will be receiving a notice on AAHA Policies for Tryouts, appropriate dates, player agreement/contract requirements and potential penalties for violations. If you know your Club has already violated the provisions on tryouts and contracts, it is advised that you contact me immediately.

If there are any questions, please direct them to me by email only. Coaches and administrators must direct any questions through their Club President or Rink GM, if appropriate, who should then direct them in writing to me.

Respectfully,

Glenn Hefferan