



Date: October 15, 2016

To: All AAHA Member Organizations

From: Glenn Hefferan, President

Re: Application for Tier I and Tier II Designations for the 2017-2018 Season

In accordance with the AAHA Rules and Regulations Article VI – Teams, Clubs and Organizations, Sections A, B and C (attached), the application for 2017-2018 Tier I and Tier II Designations are now available for submission.

The attached AAHA rule and requirements supplement USA Hockey's Standards and Criteria for Tier I Youth and Girls Classifications defined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide – Section III – Team Membership and Registration.

The procedure for the Tier I AAA Classification application includes the following:

- By no later than November 30th, any organization or club that wishes teams to be considered for a Tier I AAA designation must submit the appropriate written application (on-line fillable form attached) and supporting documentation if appropriate. All applications are to be sent via email to ghefferan.aaha@icloud.com or by fax to (201) 510-0365.
- The AAHA will convene a Tier I AAA Selection Committee that will present its written recommendations to the AAHA President by January 1st.
- The AAHA President, by the third weekend in January, shall declare those organizations/clubs and their specific teams that are designated as Tier I AAA and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier I AAA teams for the 2017-2018 season.

The procedure for the Tier II AA National Bound (14U, 16U, 18U) Classification application includes the following:

- By no later than November 30th, any organization or club that wishes teams to be considered for a Tier II AA National Bound designation (14U, 16U, 18U) must submit a written application (on-line fillable form attached). All applications are to be sent via email to ghefferan.aaha@icloud.com or by fax to (201) 510-0365.
- The AAHA will convene a Tier II AA Selection Committee that will present its written recommendations to the AAHA President by January 15th.
- The AAHA President, by February 1st, shall declare those teams that are designated as Tier II AA and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier II AA teams for the 2017-2018 season. At that time the President shall also identify the number of Tier II designations that will be available for the 2017-2018 season based upon the criteria established in the attached rule.

NOTE: Tier I and Tier II applications must be filed separately. Do not co-mingle Tier I and Tier II Club applications on the same form. PLEASE USE THE ON-LINE FILLABLE FORM.

All questions regarding this process are to be directed to me at 201-965-2242 or ghefferan.aaha@icloud.com.



(ATLANTIC AFFILIATE)

2016-2017

RULES & REGULATIONS



ARTICLE VI**TEAMS, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS****A. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND CLASSIFICATION APPROVAL**

In June of 2016, the USA Hockey Board of Directors approved Proposal “2016 – Youth Council #3 Amended” which establishes “Standards and Criteria” for the Tier I Youth & Girls Classifications. The final language will be placed into the USA Hockey Annual Guide in section “III TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION”.

This section of the AAHA Rules and Regulations will provide additional “Standards and Criteria” as well as interpretative guidelines of Proposal “2016 – Youth Council #3 Amended”.

- (1) The Affiliate President shall designate by the third weekend of January of each year those organizations and or clubs that shall be authorized to field teams for the upcoming season that may register teams at the Tier I Youth and Girls, Tier II Youth and Girls, and Senior Women A, B & C classifications.
 - (a) Such approval for any Organization/Club that is designated by the Affiliate President to compete towards USA Hockey National Tournament competition is based solely on those levels where USA Hockey offers a National Championship Tournament or equivalent;
 - (b) The Affiliate recognizes that its member Organizations/Clubs may compete in Leagues that have developmental structures and levels (i.e. Major, Minor, AA, A, B, National, Premier, Elite, etc.), to support the overall developmental objectives of the league and its Member’s players. Such team(s) shall not require the approval of the Affiliate President, for participation in such league, provided such teams will not be competing in any competition that will lead towards a USA Hockey National Championship for that team. (Example: Tier II Teams at the A & B levels, Tier I 10U, 12U and 14U Minor do not need Affiliate Approval.) However, the Affiliate President has the authority to withhold sanctioning at these levels based upon previous season’s performance and other such criteria deemed appropriate.
- (2) Classification Level. Team classifications for the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association shall be the USA Hockey classifications at all levels. Age levels 10U through 18U are deemed appropriate levels for approved Tier I Organizations/Clubs, and such Organizations/Clubs may conduct tryouts as designated in the AAHA Rules. AAHA Organizations/Clubs shall not make any reference or indicate in any way “Tier I Mite”, “AAA Mite” or similar term in association with their Tier I or Tier II program.
- (3) The Affiliate shall provide an application to initiate the approval process, available from the Affiliate Office and/or online from the Affiliate web site. The Affiliate reserves the right to change the application, in order to collect the appropriate information.
- (4) For Tier I Organizations/Clubs, the Affiliate may require the execution of an agreement between the Tier I Organization/Club and the Affiliate, which agreement may be subject to the approval of USA Hockey.

B. TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS – REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Organizations/Clubs seeking approval for Tier I or Tier II National Tournament Status for the following season shall complete and submit the appropriate Tier I/Tier II National Tournament Status Application by November 30th of the current season.
- (2) Tier I AAA Designation Policy. Any Organization/Club in good standing within the Atlantic Affiliate that is seeking approval for a Tier I AAA designation (Youth 14U, 15P 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U, 19U) for any or all of its teams may make written application to the President for such designation. The President shall, with the advice of the Tier I Selection Committee, formally designate those teams that shall be authorized to use the Tier I AAA designation and be eligible to participate in competition leading to the USA Hockey National Tournament. Every Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.
- (3) Procedure for Making Tier I National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (a) Time for Applying for Tier I National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than November 30th for the following season of each year, any Organization/Club that wishes any teams to be considered for a Tier I AAA designation shall submit a written application as provided by the Affiliate and in the manner prescribed by the President.
 - (b) Applicants may be required to attend a formal presentation meeting, held prior to the third weekend in January. The completed Application, any additional requested information from the Organization/Club may be required for the presentation meeting.
 - (c) Applicants may be summarily approved, granting full or partial approval, and not require a meeting based upon generally recognized high competitive performance, and compliance with Affiliate and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I Standards and Criteria.
 - (d) Applicants may be summarily rejected in whole or part, based upon failure or inability to comply with Affiliate and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I Standards and Criteria, apparently-lack of competitiveness, and such rejections are subject to the appeals process of this Article, Section C.
 - (e) The Affiliate may provide for stricter rules and requirements than what is provided by USA Hockey.
 - (f) Tier I AAA Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30th of each year appoint a committee consisting of not fewer than Five (5) persons who are

reasonably disinterested and impartial and are sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those Organizations/Clubs seeking a Tier I designation. The Tier I AAA Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier I selection Committee shall consider all Tier I AAA applications submitted to the President for Tier I AAA designations and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.

- (g) Time for Committee to Make Tier I AAA Recommendations. The Tier I AAA Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than January 1st of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
- (h) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier I AAA Designations & Number of Designations Available for the Following Season. The President shall by the third weekend of January of each year declare those Organizations/Clubs and their specific teams that are designated as Tier I AAA and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier 1 AAA teams for the upcoming season.
- (i) The President shall also identify the number of Tier I AAA designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier I AAA for the then- current year and the number of Tier I AAA designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
- (4) Criteria for Determining Tier I AAA Designations. Tier I AAA hockey is the highest level of youth/girl's hockey within the Affiliate. Organizations/Clubs with designated Tier I AAA teams should be those that have demonstrated the highest level of competence based on past tournament performance, organization, league schedule, and development of players that advance onto NCAA college hockey, National Team and USA Hockey Festival Teams. The Affiliate Tier I designations shall be based upon the following National and Affiliate adopted criteria:
- A. FOR TIER I YOUTH TEAMS - The number of Tier 1 Youth teams in the Affiliate, in each age classification, shall be limited by the number of players registered in the Affiliate, in that age classification. In each classification, the Tier I Teams shall not exceed 12% of the total players registered in that age classification in the Affiliate during the preceding season, provided that, subject to Affiliate approval, the Affiliate shall have at least one team per age classification. For the purposes of this 12% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. The total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 12% and the product shall then be divided by 20 players which shall determine the number of Tier I team permitted in the Affiliate. For example, If the Affiliate has 480 players in an age classification then 12% of that number would equal 57 players eligible for Tier 1 in order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three (3) Tier 1 teams at that age.
- (i) Notwithstanding the use of the 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may registered in the Affiliate at the Tier I Level, all teams at the 14U, 15P, 16U and 18U must have minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers). Organizations must be able to provide proof, if requested by the Affiliate, that the Organization's Tier I Teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the foregoing season. Failure to provide such proof, may result in the loss of Tier I status, minimally for that coming season.

District-YOUTH 2015-2016	State	17- 18	15-16	13-14
Atlantic	DE	81	120	118
Atlantic	E PA	1,553	1,834	1,897
Atlantic	NJ	1,374	2,168	2,545
TOTAL		3008	4122	4560
DIVIDE /20 Players		150.4	206.1	228.0
12% RULE		18.0	24.7	27.4
15% RULE		22.56	30.915	34.2

NOTE: Over the next 12 months, the Affiliate shall study the feasibility of reducing the number of Tier I YOUTH to a more competitive level; develop methods to reduce the number of teams and the possible creation of an “at-Large” parity event, to serve as a “catch-all” so that Tier I can remain accessible, but not watered down.

B. FOR TIER I GIRLS TEAMS - The number of Tier 1 Girls teams in the Affiliate, in each age classification, shall be limited by the number of players registered in the Affiliate, in that age classification. In each classification, the Tier I Teams shall not exceed 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in the Affiliate during the preceding season, provided that, subject to Affiliate approval, the Affiliate shall have at least one team per age classification. For the purposes of this 20% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. The total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 20% and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I Girls teams permitted in the Affiliate. For example, If the Affiliate has 350 players in an age classification than 20% of that number would equal 70 players eligible for Tier 1 in order to have teams of 18 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three (3) Tier 1 teams at that age.

District - GIRLS 2015-16	State	19	17-18	15-16	13-14
Atlantic	DE	4	1	9	6
Atlantic	E PA	25	123	249	185
Atlantic	NJ	12	72	163	214
TOTAL		237	196	421	405
DIVIDE /18 Players		13.2		23.4	22.5
12% RULE		1.6		2.8	2.7
20% RULE		2.6		4.7	4.5

- (i) Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may registered in the Affiliate at the Tier I Level, all teams at the 14U, 16U and 19U must have minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers). Organizations must be able to provide proof, if requested by the Affiliate, that the Organization's Tier I Teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the foregoing season. Failure to provide such proof, may result in the loss of Tier I status minimally for that coming season.

C. For All Tier I Teams (Youth and Girls)

- (i) Minimum Period of Operation: In order for any Association to be eligible to apply for Tier I National Tournament status, the Association must have been in existence and registered with the Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years.
- (ii) TRYOUTS – Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No Tier I team may recruit or solicit players or offer contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, make player selections, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). (i.e If the National Tournament ends at 4 PM on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 PM on Wednesday). Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, ineligibility of the team or coach, or loss of Tier I status, as determined by the Affiliate.
- (iii) TEAM ROSTERS: USA Hockey allows up to twenty (20) players to be rostered on any given team. An Organization with approved Tier I teams is required to maintain and publish their roster, either on the Club's website, or a League website in which the team participates. Each Team's Tier I Roster must be identical to its USA Hockey Tier I Roster, at all times, without exception. Players dropped from a Tier I roster, shall be deemed "Cut" from the team, and eligible to participate and join with any other Tier I team, and shall not be bound to the "One Team/One Season" Rule. This determination, in no way, makes any determination on the financial obligations of the player to the Club that has dropped the player.

No Organization shall roster a player on any approved Tier I Roster, without that player's consent, and if a minor, parental consent is required.

- (iv) All Tier I Teams must play a full season, have a minimum average of two (2) on-ice practices weekly, plus one off-ice training session, between September 1 and March 1 of each season. Each Organization with approved Tier I Teams shall keep accurate records, which may be requested for review by the Affiliate at any time during the season, and as part of the Tier I approval process.
- (v) The Association must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound Teams in either the Tier I or Tier II Tournament Bound class of 14U through 18U for Boys, and 14U and 19U for Girls, each of which must have a minimum of fifteen (15) players per team. To be compliant with this rule, if the Organization was fielding two Nationally Tournament Bound Teams, both rosters must have 15 players each, for a total of 30 different players.

D. Highest Level of Quality & Proficiency. Organizations and their Prospective Tier I AAA teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at the highest levels of proficiency both on the ice and in their administration, including, each of the following:

On Ice Quality & Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the highest skill level(s) and the

ability to compete at the highest level and to develop high-level players in the future; and

Coaching. Teams must have qualified high-level coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and player development standards and protocols; and

Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which they are a member; and

Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and

Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and

Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.

E.Club Affiliation. Every prospective Tier I AAA team must be part of an Organization/Club and demonstrate a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier I AAA team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its organization or a working relationship with another organization that has its primary home within the same rink facility)

F.Transfer Players. No prospective Tier I AAA team may add more than two (2) players who were rostered on any single Tier I AAA team or more than four (4) players who were rostered on the same Tier II team the previous season. The 2/4 player rules set forth in this paragraph shall not apply to those players who:

- (i) Participate at the 18U level; or
- (ii) Move up or transfer from within the same club, organization or from the prospective Tier I AAA team's feeder team(s); or
- (iii) Legitimately tryout with their original organization and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract

G.ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier I AAA teams must provide evidence that their affiliated organization is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.

H.Annual Application. All teams must re-apply for Tier I AAA designation each year. However, those teams earning a berth in the USA Hockey National Tournament are presumptively designated Tier I AAA for the following year provided they otherwise meet these Tier I AAA requirements.

5.Non-League & Independent Tier I AAA Teams. In order to afford non-league and independent teams' reasonable access to the Tier I AAA designation and Affiliate Tournament, the Affiliate shall organize, administer and operate through its President and Vice President of Tournaments, an Annual AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament is intended to allow those Tier I AAA teams that do not play a regular Tier I AAA league schedule and are not part of league standings, or not part of a League sanctioned by the AAHA Affiliate, the opportunity to play into the Tier I AAA Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall be administered in accordance with the rules applicable to Affiliate Invitational Tournaments set forth in Article IX.

- a) Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Affiliate VP of Tournaments shall determine the eligibility and seeding for the Tier I AAA Tournament in accordance with prevailing policies and may appoint a competition committee to assist in determining eligibility and seeding for the annual Affiliate tournament.
- b) Districts & Nationals. The AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall determine which Tier I teams qualify for the District Tournament and USA Hockey National Championship.

6. Tier II Designation Policy. Every Tier II AA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.

7. Procedure for Making Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier II AA National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) Time for Applying for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than November 30th for the following season of each year, any Organization/Club that wishes to have its teams be considered for a Tier II AA National Tournament Bound designation shall submit a written application on a form and in the manner prescribed by the President. Teams shall provide such information and documentation as shall from time to time be requested by the President.
- b) Tier II Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30th of each year appoint a committee of persons sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those teams seeking a Tier II designation consisting of not fewer than five (5) persons including the following: (1) the President of the Delaware Valley Hockey League; (2) the President of the New Jersey Youth Hockey League; plus, plus three (3) reasonably disinterested and impartial persons. The Tier II Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier II selection Committee shall consider all Tier II applications provided by the President for Tier II designation and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.
- c) Time for Committee to Make Tier II Recommendations. The Tier II Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than January 15th of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
- d) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier II Designations. The President shall by February 1st of each year declare those teams that are designated as Tier II and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier II teams for the upcoming season. At that time, the President shall also identify the number of Tier II designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier II for the then current year and the number of Tier II designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
 - (i) Criteria for Determining Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. Tier II AA National Tournament Bound hockey is a competitive level of youth travel hockey within the Affiliate. Tier II teams should be those that have demonstrated a consistent level of competition, organization, and development of youth hockey players for advancement to Tier I or other youth hockey programs and for their enjoyment and recreation. The Affiliate designations shall

be based upon the following criteria:

- e) General Acceptance of Competent Tier II Programs. Since Tier II is intended as a less competitive classification of youth hockey than Tier I, no limiting percentages will be applicable and the criteria for granting Tier II designations shall be less stringent. Once a team is designated as Tier II, it shall be presumed to retain that designation unless otherwise recommended by the Tier II Selection Committee and approved by the President. The President, with the advice and recommendation of the Tier II Selection Committee shall generally grant Tier II designation requests at each level based upon the following criteria:
- f) Proficient Level of Quality. Prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at proficient levels both on the ice and in their administration; including, each of the following:
- On-Ice Quality & Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the ability to field teams of competent skill level(s) to compete and develop youth travel players in the future; and
 - Coaching. Teams must have qualified coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and development standards and protocols; and
 - Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which it is a member; and
 - Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and
 - Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and
 - Full Season Teams. Teams must be full season teams
 - Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.
- g) Club Affiliation. Every prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team must be part of a club or program and demonstrates a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its organization or a working relationship with another organization that has its primary home within the same rink facility)
- h) ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must provide evidence that their affiliated organization is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.
- i) Annual Application Teams must re-apply for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound 14U, 16U and 18U designation each year.

C.ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF DENIAL OF TIER I OR TIER II DESIGNATION

- a. Appeal of Denial of Requested Designation. Any team denied their requested Tier I or Tier II designation shall be entitled to a review of the President's decision by the Affiliate Appeals Committee described below.
- b. Notice of Appeal. Any team denied its requested Tier designation may appeal the President's decision by sending written notice of appeal to the President and to the Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals within fourteen (14) days of its receipt of notice of denial. Notice may be sent by any means reasonably calculated to achieve receipt of notice of the appeal, including, but not limited to: electronic mail, provided the recipient acknowledges receipt of the notice.
- c. Nature of the Appeal. The Affiliate Appeals Committee, which shall be appointed by the President, from reasonably disinterested and impartial persons, shall hear all administrative appeals and shall provide the aggrieved team an opportunity to present any evidence or argument it may have to support its application.
- d. Conduct of Hearing. All appeals shall be informal and be presided over by the Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals or such Vice President's designee, who shall serve as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the purposes of the hearing. If no person is currently serving in the position of Vice President of Suspension and Appeals, then the legal counsel for the Affiliate shall serve as the Committee Chairman. If no legal counsel has been designated, then the person with the longest tenure on the Executive Committee as of the date of the hearing shall serve as its chairman. The hearing shall proceed in the following manner:
 - i. Evidence. The hearing may proceed on submitted documents, via teleconference or upon personal appearance, in the sole discretion of the Chairman. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply and the Appeals Committee may accept or reject any information submitted as the Chairman shall allow.
 - ii. Time of Hearing. The hearing shall be conducted at the time, place and in the manner as the Chairman shall designate.
 - iii. Issues and Standard of Review. The sole issue to be considered and decided by the Executive Committee shall be whether the President had a rational basis for denying the application; this means that Committee's decision shall be limited to deciding whether there exists any reasonable basis for the President to deny the request based upon the criteria set forth in this rule. If there was any reasonable basis that for the President's decision, the decision must be upheld.
 - iv. Method and Time of Decision. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee shall decide the appeal based upon a simple majority of its members. Thereafter, the Chairman shall issue a brief written letter to the appealing team notifying it of the Appeals Committee's decision within seven (7) days.
 - v. Finality of Decision. This decision is intended to be a final decision of the Affiliate in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw X. There shall be no further appeal of the Affiliate Appeals Committee's decision.

(For Organization Application for Tier I/Tier II Status – See Below)

D. USE OF TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS

(1) Exclusive Use of Tier I & Tier II Designations. Only those Tier I and Tier II teams designated under this Article may use the following designations in/on promotional material or on tournament applications: Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA"

(2) Violations. If a violation occurs, the Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA" teams and leagues shall be notified of the infraction, provided the name of the offending organization and given a recommendation that their teams not schedule any games with the offending organization until the infraction is corrected