DEVELOPMENT

PLAYER ADVANCEMENT

CAREER SERVICES - PARENT INFO MEETING

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PATHWAY TO COLLEGE HOCKEY

NCAA DIVISION 1 & 3

Average age commitment: 19.5 years old
Average roster size: 28
Total number of Division 1 Colleges (Ice Hockey): 63
Total number of Division 3 Colleges (Ice Hockey): 98

Looking ahead:
- NCAA Divison 1 freshman, by the numbers
Glenn Hefferin, USHL Commissioner, annual report

- NCAA Division 1 American Player Three Year Trend

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2024-25 MEN'S NCAA DIV 1 FRESHMAN CLASS BY U.S. STATE

AK	8	FL	5	MD	6	NJ	16	SD	2	WI	9
AZ	1	GA	1	MI	24	NY	24	TN	3		
CA	19	IA	3	MN	73	OH	9	TX	4		
CO	3	IL	22	MO	6	PA	8	VA	1		
CT	4	IN	3	ND	4	RI	1	VT	3	TOTAL	
DE	1	MA	24	NH	4	SC	1	WA	3	295	

CANADIAN-BORN NCAA DIV 1 FRESHMAN (2024-25)	
ALBERTA	32
BC	27
MANITOBA	11
ONTARIO	50
QUEBEC	21
SASK.	7
YUKON	2
TOTAL	150

FOREIGN-BORN NCAA DIV 1 FRESHMAN (2024-25)			
Belarus	2	Sweden	17
Czech	4	Ukraine	1
Finaland	8		
Italy	1	Japan	1
Latvia	6		
Norway	5		
Russia	2		
Slovakia	6		
Slovenia	2	TOTAL	55

TOTAL
500

LEAGUE PARTICIPATION BY NATIONALITY NHL DRAFT BY AMATEUR LEAGUE	USHL	NAHL (+1/NA3HL)	NCDC	U.S. PREP/HS	BCHL	AJHL	OJHL	MJHL	CCHL - Other	Europe / Asia	TOTAL	% of Players by Origin
USA CITIZEN	154	80	6	2	48	3	0	0	2	0	**295**	59.00%
CANADIAN CITIZEN	28	11	1	0	68	18	8	7	9	0	**150**	30.00%
NON-NORTH AMER.	19	15	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	15	**55**	11.00%
TOTAL	**201**	**106**	**7**	**2**	**122**	**21**	**8**	**7**	**11**	**15**	**500**	100.00%
NHL DRAFTS	**50**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**59**	

USHL COMMISIONER - GLENN HEFFERIN - ANNUAL REPORT

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PATHWAY TO COLLEGE HOCKEY

NCAA D1 AMERICAN PLAYER TREND

Three-Year Trend (Roster Composition)

Season	Total	Americans	Canadians	Europeans
2025–26	1,762	985 (55.9%)	628 (35.6%)	145 (8.2%)
2024–25	1,827	1,131 (61.9%)	531 (29.1%)	164 (8.9%)
2023–24	1,800	1,132 (62.9%)	519 (28.8%)	145 (8.1%)
2022–23	1,756	1,147 (65.3%)	474 (26.9%)	132 (7.5%)

Additional Insights:

- 40 players on current NCAA rosters played U Sports hockey last season.
- 33 players played in Europe last season.
- 5 players played in ECHL/AHL last season

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PATHWAY TO COLLEGE HOCKEY

DEVELOPMENT LADDER

Average roster size between the leagues: 23

TIER 1

CHL - 61 TEAMS

- OHL Draft Year: 15o

USHL - 15 teams + NTDP

- USHL Draft Year: 15o

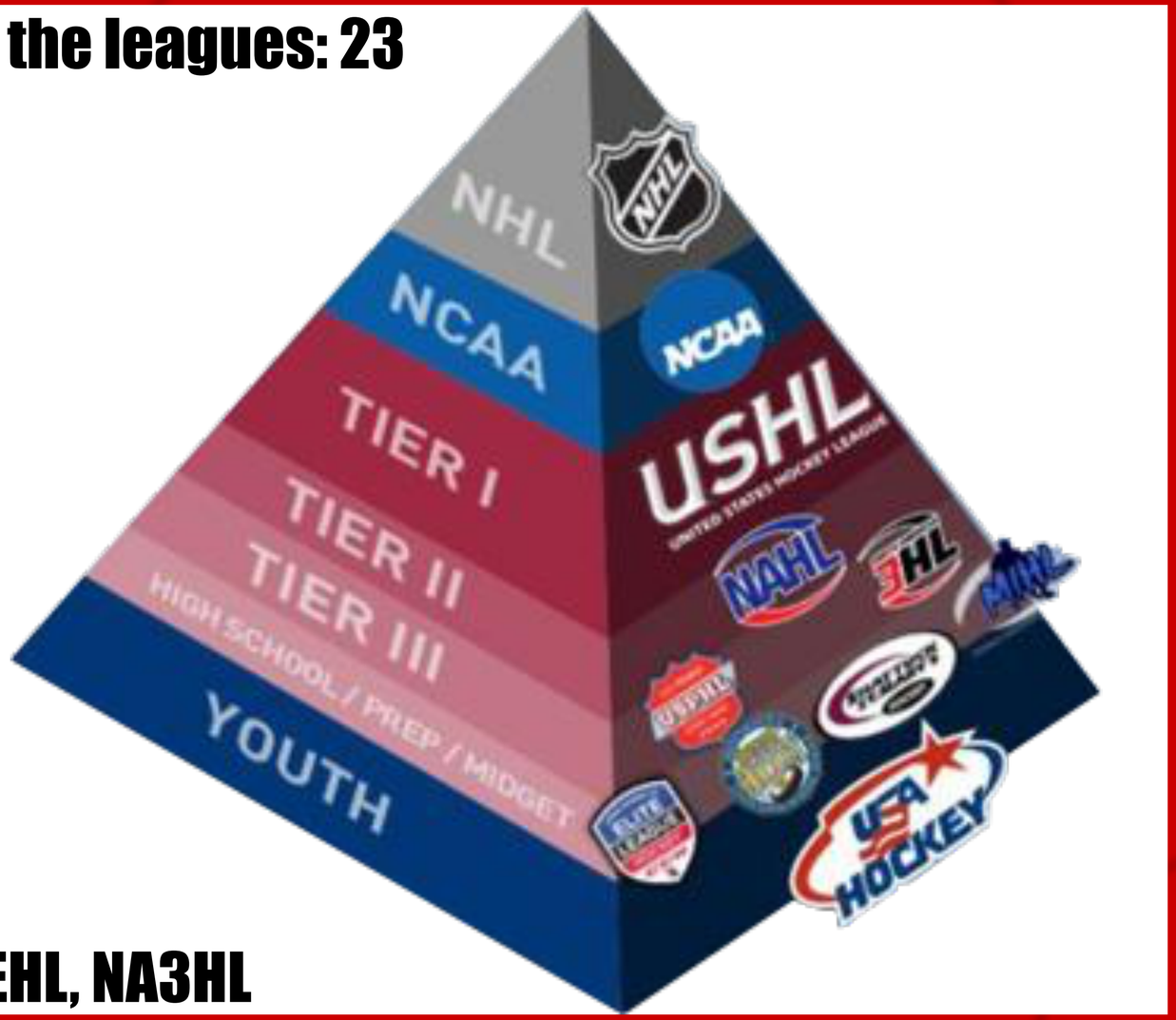
TIER 2

NAHL - 34 Teams

BCHL - 20 Teams

NCDC - 20 Teams

TIER 3 (PAY TO PLAY) - USPHL, EHL, NA3HL



BILLETING OVERVIEW

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PATHWAY TO JUNIOR HOCKEY

USAH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

Standards:

- August 1st, 2027 - Start of the inaugural DL season.
- 15u & 17u teams - 22 rostered players
- Will be required to train and/or compete five to six days per week, including off-ice training at a minimum of twice a week.
- DL teams will take one day off per week for rest and recovery, as well as a minimum of four weekends off throughout the season.
- DL teams wil play a maximum of 55 games per season, not including playoffs or championship.
- Scheduling: DL Showcases and responsibility to create their own home and away schedule (bus).

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PREPARING TO MOVE



VARIOUS TYPES OF MATURITY:
PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, ETHICAL

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ACADEMY MODEL









PLAYER RETAINMENT, MATRICULATION, & PROGRAMMING.
ACADEMIC MODEL: NCAA? IN-PERSON, HYBRID, ONLINE.
SOCIAL, BOARDING, MEALS, TRANSPORTATION, ETC...

DEVELOPMENT
CHAMPIONSHIP HABITS

GETTING INTO PREP SCHOOL

Finding a school that is the right fit for a player is beneficial to both school AND student. Don't be too impressed with a prestigious name. All of these schools are excellent and matriculate their students to good colleges. As Malcolm Gladwell has pointed out, the happiness and confidence derived by being at the top of one school far outweighs the value of being at the bottom rung of Harvard, despite the disparity in name recognition. Take the time to find a school where it's not only the right hockey environment, but a place that is the right match for the player's personality, interests and learning style.

Schools are very aware of ranking and reputation. When they enroll a student they are trying to maximize their return and get the most out of him or her. A well rounded student provides more opportunities for success than a one-dimensional student. So a two sport athlete or a student who excels at hockey AND academics or the arts may have an edge.

Also, schools are looking for a diverse student body. Diversity takes many forms — ethnic, geographic, socio-economic, etc.

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GETTING INTO PREP SCHOOL

ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS

Academics:

- Rigorous College Prep - demanding curriculum
- Specific subject or skill emphasis:
  - STEM, Arts, Specialized Programs

Athletics:

- Three Sports - Fall, Winter, Spring
- 30 Game hockey schedule
- Varsity A, Varsity B, JV
- PG'S and recruiting
- Split season - tryouts, practices, transportation, coaching.

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PREP SCHOOL

Standard Admission Cycle
(this may obviously differ for hockey players)

July - August

- Familiarize yourself with various prep schools, explore websites, request information and discuss your list with Bears staff. Coaches will be contacted prior to October showcase.

September - October

- Check with schools to see what standardized testing is required
- Register for SSAT, ISEE, or other necessary testing
- Arrange for test preparation (e.g., test prep courses and books) as necessary
- Begin gathering teacher references

November

- Take standardized tests
- Wrap-up school visits and interviews
- Begin drafting essays and application

December

- Complete essays and applications
- Begin filling-out financial aid forms

January - February

- Complete financial aid forms
- Submit school applications and financial aid forms
    - Depending on the school, deadlines typically range from mid-January to early February

March

- Early March - wait for school decision letters

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DIVISION I MEN'S HOCKEY RECRUITING TIMELINE

19
AVERAGE AGE THAT NCAA DI PLAYERS EARN A COMMITMENT FROM A SCHOOL

9TH GRADE | 10TH GRADE | 11TH GRADE | 12TH GRADE | JUNIORS



PRIOR TO JAN. 1 OF GRADE 10
- NO RECRUITING CONVERSATIONS

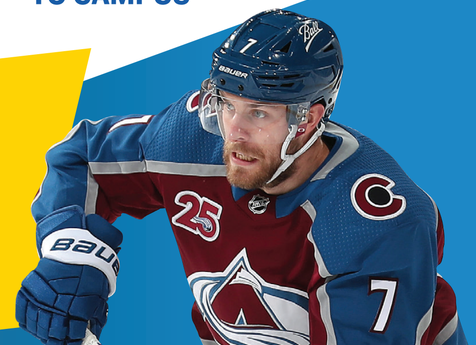
BEGINS JAN. 1 OF GRADE 10
- RECRUITING CONVERSATIONS PERMITTED

BEGINS AUG. 1 BEFORE GRADE 11
- VERBAL OFFERS PERMITTED
  (NON-BINDING OFFERS AND COMMITMENTS TO SCHOOLS)
- OFFICIAL VISITS TO CAMPUS

BEGINS IN GRADE 12
- PROSPECTS MAY SIGN ATHLETIC AID AGREEMENTS

NCAA-ELIGIBLE JUNIOR HOCKEY
- MOST DIVISION I PLAYERS COMMIT WHILE PLAYING NCAA-ELIGIBLE JUNIOR HOCKEY

"I loved it there. It was the time of my life. A special time."



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ACTIONABLE ITEMS:

Player Resume

- **Athletics: Statistics, Awards, Achievements, etc..**
- **Academic Portfolio: 9th grade matters, NCAA approved courses, “High GPA” vs “Honors Classes”**
- **Additional: Community Service, Leadership, other sport achievements, etc..**

Elite Prospects - Look into one of the Top 10, Top 25, and bottom 25% of both NCAA Division 1 & 3 programs and choose three players from each team and identify their unique pathway to the NCAA