

2019 Arbitration Decisions

Description: The USFHL National championship qualification rules are designed to preserve the mission of USFHL to grow and support adult field hockey in the US. The Nationals Championships are competitions of the best teams in the US. Teams must qualify locally through USFHL Sanctioned competition.

However due to roster and league constrictions and travel demands the Arbitration process is in place for rare situations. Decisions were made following the framework in Appendix A
Below are the decisions made for 2019 as of 7/8/19:

1) Team #1 NYCFHC (Women)

Situation: Team qualified through Article VIII, Section 14 with an automatic bid for winning the tournament in 2018. Team informed Tournament Director last minute, two weeks before the National Championship that they needed players, within a week all players had dropped

- Decision: Under Article VII, Section 4 the Tournament Director used best discretion to fill team.
 - **Step 1-** Through mass marketing outreach tried to secure athletes from NEFHA the sanctioned competition.
 - **Step 2-** Team was still short so team was filled with athletes mostly not part of any USFHL Sanctioned Competition. Athletes were chosen especially if they have a desire to organize adult field hockey locally to become a sanctioned league to grow the game
 - **Step 3-** For any athletes added a few were loosely part of another Sanctioned Competition, those rosters were finalized and athletes were not part of their roster
 - Lori Pollack
 - Jimena Moses
 - EA Jackson
 - Allison Metzger
 - Sabrina Rhodes
 - She was requested to play on another team but did not meet qualification criteria so she was invited to play on this free agent team.

2) Team #20 Federation, SteelStyx, NC (Men)

Situation: Advisory board approved this team to be made up of communities who qualify but due to travel demands have not been able to put in a team. Last minute the Federation was not able to put in any players leaving the roster short.

- Athlete spots filled who were not from the three approved communities, were filled with athletes mostly not part of any USFHL Sanctioned Competition. Athletes were chosen especially if they have a desire to organize adult field hockey locally to become a sanctioned league to grow the game
 - Yad Deol
 - Ryan Fleming
 - Pierre Franchomme
 - Asdeep Singh
 - Sheryas Um

3) Team #2 BFHA - Baltimore Field Hockey Association (Women)

Situation: Athlete Amanda Janney recently moved from the Mid-West. Arbitrage decision granted to add to roster because:

- Athlete has moved recently and thus did not have the time to commit to a local community.
- Athlete competed with BFHA in the past year and has financially contributed to the organization through competition
- Athlete lives within the 2 hour radius of Greater Baltimore
- If athlete qualifies with multiple communities or teams they may choose which team they compete with at Nationals

4) Team #8 Olympic club (Women)

Situation: Team experienced some last-minute injuries. Rachel Dunn was added who now lives in North Carolina, but lived in Northern California before she moved.

- Rachel played in NCFHA fall season before she moved which is within the past year so qualifies through that Northern California Community.
- Olympic club exhausted their roster before reaching out to the community. Last minute from California

5) Team #9 Steelstyx (Women)

Situation: Due to last minute injury issue the team needed to pick up a goalie. They added Jen Beaumont-Schroeder as goalie, but she plays in sanctioned community PFHA.

- Athlete's team did not qualify and was not invited as part of any team

Other athletes added for below reasons:

- Due to a few injuries and a new baby, team was shorted a few players from SteelStyx. Then, they opened up to the Midwest community, Pittsburgh region as well as Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Ann Arbor, Chicago, and Houston. They picked up a couple but still not enough. Main reason cited was distance to tournament site. Then, we reached out to players who were connected to Steelstyx, played with them at qualifying tournaments. These players were connected to team and midwest Susan Mitchell, Haley Dervinis, Maxine Fluharty, and Jessie Bachman. These players are either marginally or not involved in the local hockey community. Marleise Emrhein was in the Ann Arbor area playing in the Midwest and connected to the hockey community there until recently moving. Maxine Fluharty and Jessie Bachman do not have a hockey community in their areas.

6) Team #12 Triangle FHL (Women)

Situation: Due to last minute roster and injury issues the team's roster is short players. They were granted to pick up three athletes who are connected to the league, but outside their 2 hours. These athletes must live at least 2 hours from any sanctioned league or not part of any sanctioned competition.

- Athletes may not have any USA pipeline experience or top college experience or awards.

7) Team #13 dcDragons (Men)

Situation: Athlete Adam Falla lives in Austin, Texas. Longtime member of dcDragons and competes in tournaments. Arbitrage decision granted to add to roster because:

- Athlete competed with dcDragons in the past year
- Athlete has not played on a team in other sanctioned competitions
- Athlete does not live close to any sanctioned community but has a desire to work with leaders to sanction a community in Texas

8) Team #10 & 14 Philly Premier (Men & Women)

Situation: Some athletes rostered outside of 2 hour radius

- Mens team needed to pick up a goalie. They added Barry Merriman.
- Jack Gallucci been playing with Philly Premier for 3 years. Athlete who qualifies in multiple may choose which team he plays for
- Kelly Setser does not live close to a Sanctioned league and can help with Midwest sanctioning

9) **Team #15 NY Islanders**

Situation: The below athletes live outside of the 2 hour driving radius of NEFHA competition, but still qualify as part of the NY Islanders team

- Andre Ferguson is Vice President of the NY Islanders FHA. He plays in NEPL but also travels from Attleboro Mass on Sundays to NYC for league games, he has been an active and senior member of the team and organization for the last 25 years. He was offered a spot on the Minuteman team, but per the rules “if an athlete qualifies for two teams they may choose which team they prefer to play with.” Appendix A
- Giovanni Gordon has been playing with NYI for over 7 years. He drives from Baltimore to NY to play in the NEFHA league and has been to every tournament they competed at in the last 3 years.
- Stevin Mcquilin has been playing with NY Islanders for over 3 years and in NEFHA game

10) **Team #16 San Jose Khalsa (Men)**

Situation: Athlete Ranveer Kundi was added when Southern California team #20 folded. San Jose Khalsa competes in BAFH which is the closest sanctioned league to Ranveer.

- Athlete has a relationship with SJK

Appendix A

Roster Checklist for Nationals

Nationals Roster Spots must first have been offered to Team Members, then Community, then those within 2 Hours Driving
If your team was submitted by a same gender 11 v 11 community then 70% of your roster must be team members, unless club is located > 350 miles from nationals then only 50% required
If your team was submitted by a same gender community with competition of less than 11 players on the field, then 30% of your roster must be team members, unless club is located > 350 miles from nationals then only 20% required
NCAA athletes may <u>not</u> compete at Nationals
Women may <u>not</u> play on men’s teams at Nationals unless as a goalie
If athlete qualifies with multiple communities or teams they may choose which team they compete with at Nationals

***Arbitration rules get stricter on **June 25**, so reach out before then for decisions

****Any roster issues or questions will be addressed with the captain

*****Any game played at Nationals with an ineligible player or roster will be considered forfeit with offending team losing 0-3.

