

This is a reminder to all that the required SAHOF Background Checks are due prior to participating in any SAHOF or USA Hockey sanctioned event for the upcoming season, including practice.

Please access the online screening link here:

<http://sahofscreening.sportngin.com/>

SAHOF has implemented a screening program in accordance with USA Hockey Policies. All volunteers or employees over the age of 18 with access to youth participants within the SAHOF jurisdiction must consent to be screened, and/or complete an Authorization to Release Information in accordance with the adopted screening procedures of SAHOF.

Youth participants shall be defined as children (anyone under the age of majority).

The SAHOF Screening Policy requires that all of the following persons be screened in accordance with this policy:

1. Members of the SAHOF Board of Directors
2. Member Association Administrators
3. Coaches
4. Team Managers
5. Officials
6. Locker Room Monitors
7. Team Drivers
8. Travel Chaperones
9. Any other persons with routine access to youth participants.

For the purposes of this policy, Member Association Administrators shall include the Member Association's Board of Directors, all support staff or employees and such other persons as the Board of Directors may designate from time to time with access to youth participants.

All officials must complete a background screening in accordance with the Southeastern District Officiating Program's Screening Policy.

Deadlines. All volunteers or employees with access to children (anyone under the age of majority) within the jurisdiction of SAHOF shall complete the screening process prior to participating in any SAHOF and USA Hockey sanctioned event, including but not limited to all team activities and any other "on ice" or "off ice" hockey activities.

SAHOF Screening Policy and Procedures FAQ

QUESTION: Whom does the screening mandate apply to?

ANSWER: It applies to all levels of hockey under USA Hockey, including all recreational, in-house, and travel programs. If the rinks were not screening their coaches at these levels before that was a violation under the old policy.

QUESTION: Why are we implementing this screening process?

ANSWER: Due to the increased awareness of the necessity to attain clearances from USA Hockey participants in a uniform manner, the SAHOF Board of Directors revised the policies and procedures for background screenings. The State of Florida recently changed the law and specifically requires the “sanctioning authority” be responsible for administering and oversight of the screening process and the law also makes it a requirement to conduct an annual search under specific categories. A uniform process is essential to insure compliance. See F.S. §943.0438. Although USA Hockey has been discussing a possible national screening process for several years, apparently there are obstacles for that type of program. USA Hockey has also adopted a new program called “Safesport” which encompasses background screening as part of its area of focus. Although we understand many programs have used their own vendors for years and that the price may be somewhat cheaper, we at SAHOF feel it is a small price to pay to ensure the safety of our youth participants. Nevertheless, each SAHOF Member Association and rink are co-equally responsible to assure the screening takes place.

QUESTION: We have already started our screening process and this was just brought to our attention (we don’t want to pay twice this season).

ANSWER: First, this change was announced at the SAHOF Annual Meeting in May and has been the subject of numerous emails to rinks, hockey managers, and program officials. Second, the screening policy itself has been released and posted on the new SAHOF website since June. Nevertheless, due to the complication of switching over our website this summer and launching the online background screening process, SAHOF has agreed, for this year only 2013-2014, to reimburse any program that paid for their background screening prior to August 1, 2013 subject to documentation review and verification. This does not excuse any program from completing the SAHOF background screening process in the time frame indicated.

All screening must still be performed by September 2, 2013.

QUESTION: Will SAHOF use or see my Social Security Number?

ANSWER: No, only the vendor will have access to your Social Security Number. An applicant's Social Security Number will not be released to SAHOF.

QUESTION: How long does it take to complete the online process?

ANSWER: Approximately 10 minutes. Be sure to have the SAHOF required information on hand before beginning your application.

QUESTION: How long does it take before I get my results back?

ANSWER: The average turnaround time for processing and completing background screening is 2 – 3 business days.

QUESTION: How will I know if I have been screened or when I need to be re-screened?

ANSWER: There is a two-year cycle but everyone is screened every year to comply with Florida law. The first year is more extensive and the cost is \$27. The second year is \$10. Then the cycle repeats.

QUESTION: Who will monitor the list to verify compliance?

ANSWER: A panel of SAHOF personnel in conjunction with the SAHOF SafeSport Coordinator and SAHOF registrar will monitor participants compliance based on USA Hockey registration data and roster submittals. The local association must monitor all other volunteers or individuals who do not register with USA Hockey such as, but not limited to, mentors, team managers and trainers.

QUESTION: What if I do not complete a background screening?

ANSWER: Noncompliance will disqualify an individual from participating in all USA Hockey youth programs.