



The National Governing Body
for the sport of hockey

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USA Hockey is a member
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Olympic Committee



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The Pacific District and its Affiliates [Alaska, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington], have adopted a comprehensive, mandatory background screening program. Spear-headed by John Bjeldanes, Pacific District Risk Manager, the intent of the program is simple – protection of our youth participants from physical or sexual abuse. To facilitate this program, the District and its Affiliates have entered into an agreement with Acxiom Corporation to conduct comprehensive background screening traces on all coaches, managers and other individuals who have routine access to our children. Acxiom is one of the leading information and database management companies in the world. Through Acxiom, the Pacific District and its Affiliates now have access to a nationwide database of almost 500 million criminal records and sex offender files. These records are compiled from national, state and local records.

In response to any concerns or objections your membership may have to the new District and Affiliate program, the short answer to each is:

- USA Hockey's Screening Policy is mandatory. To assist Affiliates in complying with the Screening Policy, USA Hockey and the District have conducted extensive review and analysis of the various nationwide background screening programs available and determined that the Acxiom program best meets the needs of the District and Affiliates.
- Screening requirements have been in place for Affiliates for more than three years but no Affiliate in our District can assure that its members are in compliance. In addition, several local associations within Affiliates have been conducting their own background checks with no consistency as to the method, depth or disqualification parameters being used. The new District and Affiliate program administered by Acxiom provides a uniform process and information reporting system that will bring the District into compliance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy and greatly simplify the efforts that are currently being undertaken by Affiliates and associations. The new District and Affiliate program does not prohibit any association within the Affiliate to continue to use their own screening program to supplement the District/ Affiliate program; however, full compliance with the new District/ Affiliate program is required.
- Acxiom provides a comprehensive and trustworthy database with security for all member applicants. Our members enter personal information directly into a secure, password protected site. The program also provides any applicant who may be rejected with a formal notification, including disclosure of the information sources which generated the rejection, as well as an appeal process.
- Noncompliance with the new District and Affiliate background screening program will disqualify members from Affiliate, District or USA Hockey activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or John Bjeldanes.