

MYHA Participation Rule

Minnesota Hockey is a community based amateur hockey program. Members in good standing are to participate on teams from their local affiliate (local association) based on where they attend school and the established MH affiliate boundaries as defined in the Affiliate Agreement. Mite-aged players are allowed to participate based on residence.

The new "Participation Rule" maintains the tradition of community hockey, however redefines association membership to be based on school attendance rather than residency. Simply put, the following are some special provisions of the rule:

- 1) Mite & Under players can choose to register either based on residence or school attendance. This provision was included to encourage more Mite-aged players to try hockey.
- 2) Squirt/10U players and up, must participate with their Association of School Attendance. Participation in any other Association must be by waiver.
- 3) Players must be attending school, public or private, in an Association's geographic boundary for one year before they are eligible for "A" teams.
- 4) For the 2009-2010 season, player's previously attending school outside of their Association of Residence, will have a one-time choice to continue participation with their Association of Residence.

The new rules are the result of months of examining alternatives among the 12 District Directors. The intent is to acknowledge open-enrollment while preserving the community-based foundation of Minnesota Hockey.

The following is taken from the Minnesota Hockey Handbook, 2009-2010.

1. Youth Hockey players must play within the affiliate boundaries as defined by MH. If a player desires to play on a team outside of the player's affiliate boundary, the player must obtain written permission (waiver) from the president of governing body of both the releasing and receiving organization and receive the approval of the responsible District Director(s). A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Waivers must be obtained before a player can participate outside their affiliate boundary. A player that registers or participates with their affiliate cannot participate with any other affiliate without a waiver.
2. Starting with the 2009-2010 season, Affiliate Participation for Squirt-aged players and above is redefined as players attending school in the Affiliates geographic area, rather than those who are residing in the Affiliate's geographic area.
 - a. Mite-aged players may choose to register in either their Affiliate of School Attendance or their Affiliate of Residence.
 - b. Changing Schools – A player who newly enrolls in a school outside of the geographic boundary of their current Affiliate without a corresponding change of residence shall elect one of the following.

- i. Retain full eligibility to compete at any classification in their Affiliate prior to the new school enrollment for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school, after which time, the player shall become fully eligible in their Affiliate of School Attendance; or
 - ii. Be eligible at the “B” classification of lower in their new Affiliate or School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school.
 - c. For the 2009-2010 season, players that participated in their Affiliate of Residence for the 2008-2009 season but attended school elsewhere will be given a one-time choice to continue participation in their Affiliate of Residence. This alternate participation determination will continue through that player’s youth or girls’ hockey career unless the player moves outside of their Affiliate of Residence geographical boundary, at which time school attendance will be used to determine Affiliation participation.
3. A player who is denied a waiver by his/her affiliate may appeal in writing to the responsible District Director who, after investigation, will issue a ruling. The decision of the District Director is final.

MYHA Waiver Policy

In order to assure consistency with the Association’s Affiliate Agreement with USA Hockey, MN Hockey and District 15 rules regarding “Participation”, it is the policy of the MYHA to approve waivers only in the event of extraordinary circumstances in which the absence of approval would, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, likely result in the inability of the skater(s) to continue participation in the sport of Ice Hockey.

All requests for a waiver must be submitted in writing to the MYHA Hockey Director no later than Dec. 31st of each calendar year. The Hockey Director will forward the request to the Association President, whose approval is necessary before a waiver is granted.

There are waivers which take place to accommodate registration of smaller number of players than would compose a team. These players may be waived in or out of the association in order to provide a player opportunity to play the sport of hockey. Typically, these waivers occur at the Junior Gold level.

Waivers, if granted, will apply only to the season in which the request is made. Request for waivers for subsequent seasons must be applied for on an annual basis.