

YOUTH RULES AND REGULATIONS

(YOUTH JUNIOR GOLD AND YOUNGER – GIRLS 19&UNDER AND YOUNGER)

Includes Revisions as of June 2011

For the purposes contemplated in these rules and regulations, Youth Midget and Youth 16 & Under divisions follow all provisions specified for the Youth Jr Gold Division. Girls 19 & Under and Girls 16 & Under divisions follow all provisions specified for the Youth Jr Gold division, Girls 14 & Under follow all provisions specified for the Youth Bantam division, Girls 12 & Under division follow all provisions specified for the Youth Peewee division, Girls 10 & Under division follow all provisions specified for the Youth Squirt division and Girls 8 & Under division follow all provisions specified for the Youth Mite division.

Youth and Girls teams playing at the same competitive level (A, B, C, House) are considered to be equal competitive levels, and these like competitive playing levels shall receive equal treatment.

MH strongly recommends that playing rules as written by an association and/or district league rules should reflect the written reason for any different treatment between Youth and Girls teams of similar competitive playing levels. These rules should be based on fact (not opinion) and reflect the reasons why teams are treated differently. This includes any voluntary waiver of equitable treatment by the affected team or teams.

I. TEAM REGISTRATION

- A. Team Rosters A USAH Roster Form must be completed for each team and submitted along with proof of date of birth, proof of legal residency for non-US citizens and other required documentation (refer to paragraph entitled Credentials hereinafter) to the USAH Registrar or designee for approval. Players on teams categorized as "House" or "Recreational" are exempt from submitting proof of date of birth or proof of legal residency for non-US citizens. Documentation may be required by the cognizant Director, Registrar or local association on an exception basis where there is probable cause to question citizenship, gender or age.
- B. Each team must be registered through the affiliate where 80% or more of its players are members. Exception: In cases where two or more affiliates combine their players in an age division for the purpose of forming teams in one or more competitive classifications, the 80% criteria shall not apply if such agreement has been pre-approved by the cognizant District Director(s) and the USAH Minnesota District Registrar.
- C. The MH regular season begins Sept. 1 and extends through completion of all youth/girls state tournaments.
- D. Teams formed for the purpose of post-season play, regardless of age division, can not be registered or sanctioned prior to the completion of the MH regular season. Players shall not be contacted regarding participation on these teams during MH-sanctioned activities. Any individual(s) violating this rule shall not be allowed to coach or manage a MH registered team for a period of one year.

II. REGISTRATION

- A. The USA Hockey and MH Player Registration fees and dates shall be set on an annual basis by USAH and the MH Board of Directors. The fees and dates are published on the inside front cover of the MH Handbook.
- B. No Player shall be registered with two or more MH/USA Hockey teams at the same time regardless of league division or classification, except:
 - 1. Players on city house teams may play with both their team and a city traveling team.
 - 2. This provision shall not apply to female youth age players who may register on both a youth C or House team and also register with a girl's A or B team for the purpose of practice, exhibition games, league games and tournament competition including the USA Hockey National Women's Tournament. This exception should not dissuade an association from starting a girls program at any age level.
 - 3. Special Events approved by the MH Board. Such events must comply with requirements established by MH, and must be on the Winter Meeting agenda at the latest, according to the Bylaw requirements for putting items on the agenda. Approval of Special Events shall be by 2/3 vote.
- C. CITY LEAGUES - Where a league exists within a city, the team representing the city may be formed of players from any of the league teams providing ALL the teams are properly registered as house teams by the proper dates, and the twenty (20) player squad to represent the city in the district and state tournament play is declared by the player registration date of December 31st.
- D. Commitment To Team - Players are expected to participate in all team activities (practices, games, tournaments, etc). An allowance for an "excused absence" upon notice that is reasonable under the circumstances may be established by teams and associations. However unexcused absence is grounds for consequence to a player, as determined by the team or association, up to and including suspension. *A team or association rule and/or policy as to "excused absences" or as to consequences for unexcused absences must be reasonable and may not be implemented in a manner that discriminates as between player participation in one outside program versus another.*

III. CITIZENSHIP AND AGE REGULATIONS

- A. Youth Junior Gold and younger, and Girl's 19 & Under and younger - Restricted to US citizens only, and limited to amateurs. The Divisions and their respective cutoff dates as established by the MH Board of Directors are published on the inside front cover of the MH Handbook.
- B. Players playing in the Junior Gold, Midget and 16&Under Divisions must be enrolled in high school during the current season. Players on Girls 19 & Under teams are not required to be attending high school.
- C. EXCEPTION: A player who is a non-United States citizen but is a legal resident of the United States as evidenced by such documentation as; a non-expired Resident Alien card or a non-expired Visa of the

Type/Class that allows for residency, or who is a resident student from outside the United States, is eligible to compete. Any Native American who has a Certificate of Indian Status is also eligible.

- D. AGE DIVISIONS - Teams are to be formed observing the established age divisions. Players on teams shall follow the age range established for the division. Each association shall have a policy on whether players are allowed to "play up" to the next division and the conditions which apply. Players waived to another association are not allowed to play up. Two-thirds (2/3) of the players on teams at the Squirt level and above must be within the age division in which the team is registered. Exception: In cases of low player numbers, players from multiple age groups may be combined on a single team, if necessary, with the approval of the cognizant District Director and the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar.
- E. AGE CERTIFICATION - Government issued (state or county) birth certificates or passport must be presented by a team for all players for inspection by the proper authority at the time of player registration (except as provided in paragraph I-A herein) and prior to each district, regional and state tournament.

IV. PARTICIPATION

A. PARTICIPATION POLICY

MH is a community-based amateur hockey program. Members in good standing are to participate on teams from their local association (local affiliate) based on the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The boundaries of the geographical area served by each local association are determined by MH and recorded in the Affiliate Agreements. In some circumstances, players may participate in another association by requesting a formal waiver from this policy.

B. PARTICIPATION RULE

1. Youth Hockey players must register and participate with the association whose boundaries incorporate the player's residence. To participate on any other association's team, the player must obtain a waiver.
 - a. All waiver requests must be submitted on a current Waiver Form provided by MH.
 - b. The Waiver Form must indicate the reason for the waiver request. (school attendance, opportunity to play on travel team, co-op team, etc.).
 - c. Any conditions that apply to a waiver must be indicated on the Waiver Form and initialed by all parties executing the waiver.
 - d. Waiver Forms must be signed by the releasing and receiving association presidents before being submitted to the District Director for approval. If the releasing and receiving associations are in two districts, the waiver form must be submitted to both District Directors for approval.
 - e. Players residing outside of the state of Minnesota that desire to play for MH must follow the Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol.
2. Definitions
 - Association of Residence** – the association whose boundaries incorporate the player's residence.
 - Association of School Attendance** – the association whose boundaries incorporate the location of the school the player attends.
 - Home Association** – either the Association of Residence, or the Association of School Attendance to which a player has been properly waived.
3. A waiver shall be granted to any player who wishes to participate in the MH association whose boundaries incorporate the school in which the player is enrolled and is attending. For schools with multiple campuses, the "main" campus shall prevail unless agreed otherwise by the affected District Director(s). Players waived based on school choice shall be deemed to be members of their Association of School Attendance and shall have full rights and privileges accorded to all members of that association, including voting rights. (Exception – see "Changing Schools" below.) Players receiving a waiver based on school attendance shall register with their Association of School Attendance for as long as they are qualified students of that school (including the first year).
4. Players waived for non-school attendance reasons shall be subject to the receiving association's policies in accordance with MH governing documents (e.g. may not be eligible for "A" team, may be assigned to lowest available team, etc.). They shall remain members of their Home Association, not the association they were waived into, with full rights and privileges accorded to all members of their Home Association, including voting rights.
5. Changing Schools
 - a. **Players whose Home Association has been based on residence:**

Players who newly enroll in a school outside of the boundaries of their Association of Residence without a corresponding change of residence, shall elect one of the following:

 1. Retain full eligibility to compete at any classification in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at the "B" classification or lower in their new Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school (a waiver is required).
 - b. **Players whose Home Association has been based on school attendance:**

Players who newly enroll in a school outside of the boundaries of their Association of School Attendance without a corresponding change of residence, shall elect one of the following:

 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any classification in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Have full eligibility to compete at any classification in their new Association of School Attendance if they completed the grades of school offered at their former Association of School Attendance; or
 3. Be eligible at the "B" classification or lower in their new Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school if they did not complete the grades of school offered at their former Association of School Attendance.

- c. Submit unusual circumstances to the District Director for determination. The Director's decision is final.
- 6. A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Refer to the Section entitled Eligibility Provisions. A waiver must be obtained before a player can participate outside of their Home Association. During a season, a player that registers or participates with one association cannot participate with any other association without a waiver (applies to players with dual residency).
- 7. A player denied a waiver by his/her Home Association may appeal in writing to the District Director having jurisdiction over the Home Association, who after investigation will issue a ruling. The decision of the District Director is final. Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.
- 8. Players having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must also conform to the residency rule.

V. ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS

- A. Any team found to have an ineligible player that participates in any MH sanctioned on-ice activity will be suspended from MH District, Region and State Tournament play for the current season. This suspension may be reviewed by the cognizant District Director to determine if the severity of the suspension is appropriate and a less severe penalty may be imposed if the facts so dictate.
- B. Any high school hockey player who participates with their high school hockey team beyond December 31st shall not be eligible for MH sanctioned teams during the balance of the playing season. Refer to the Minnesota State High School League rules for future High School eligibility.
- C. In the Junior Gold and 16 & Under Division a player must have played 5 games before January 25th in order to be eligible for participation in District, Regional and State playoffs.

VI. TEAM COMPOSITION

- A. The maximum number of players on a team roster is twenty. Up to eighteen of those players can dress as skaters for a single game. The maximum number of players that can dress for a single game is twenty.
Exception: In situations where a player(s) would be denied opportunity to participate, teams may roster over twenty players to a maximum of twenty-three with approval of the cognizant District Director and the USAH Minnesota District Registrar. Such rosters will be approved only at the lowest competitive level the particular association offers. A maximum of eighteen skaters and total of twenty players may dress for each game. Rostered players in excess of the dressed limit are not allowed on the players bench. Further, such rosters must be reduced to a final set of twenty players for District, Region, State and National tournaments if the team is participating at a level in which MH teams compete in USAH National Tournaments.
- B. All teams shall roster at least one adult coach. A rostered coach must be present at all team events.
- C. It is recommended that each team in the state and regional tournaments dress two goalies. If the team does not have two goalies, a SPARE goalie may be chosen from a team in its league or association, and such a "spare goalie" may be chosen from the same or a lower but not higher playing classification.
 - 1. If a "spare" goalie is not available from within a team's league or association, a "spare" goalie may then be chosen from among the teams in its district; or failing the above, from its regional.
 - 2. Such a "spare" goalie may play ONLY in the case of injury to the regular goalie.
 - 3. The "spare" goalie shall wear the light or dark jersey of the in-season team on which they are rostered.
 - 4. The "spare" goalie retains their eligibility with their parent team or organization at their original classification for the balance of the playing season whether or not they actually play in the tournament in question.
 - 5. The "spare" goalie must be properly registered on a MH team for the season in question to be eligible to participate in a regional or state tournament. Proof of registration, such as a copy of their parent team's registration roster will be required during tournament check-in. NOTE: the objective of the rule is to allow a team to obtain a back-up goalkeeper during regional and state MH play. The rule is not intended to permit teams to improve their goaltending through drafting of an additional player.
 - 6. Must be approved by the releasing/receiving District Director(s) using the MH Substitute Goalie Form.
- D. If a team carries only one goalie on its roster and that goalie is not available for regional or state tournament play, a REPLACEMENT goalie may be chosen from a team in its league or association. Such a "replacement" goalie may be chosen from the same or a lower but not higher playing classification.
 - 1. If a "replacement" goalie is not available from within a team's league or association, a "spare" goalie may then be chosen from among the teams in its district; or failing the above, from its regional.
 - 2. The "replacement" goalie shall wear the jersey of the in-season team on which they are rostered.
 - 3. The "replacement" goalie retains eligibility with their parent team or organization at their original classification for the balance of the playing season whether or not they actually play in the tournament in question.
 - 4. The "replacement" goalie must be properly registered on a MH team for the season in question to be eligible to participate in a regional or state tournament. Proof of registration, such as a copy of their parent team's registration roster will be required during tournament check-in. NOTE: the objective of the rule is to allow a team to obtain a back-up goalkeeper during regional and state MH play. The rule is not intended to permit teams to improve their goaltending through drafting of an additional player.
 - 5. Must be approved by the releasing/receiving District Director(s) using the MH Substitute Goalie Form.

VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

- A. "Divisions" means Mite, Squirt, Peewee, 10&Under, 12&Under, Junior Gold, etc.
- B. "Classifications" means A, B, C, House, etc.
- C. To encourage development and expansion of hockey within the State and to provide for uniformity of competition, all youth hockey shall be divided into five competitive classifications as herein provided. Each District Director has the responsibility to maintain the integrity of each classification within his/her district.

- "A" The highest competitive classification, essentially a development program designed to enhance team and individual skills. MH will provide for district, regional and state tournament competition at this classification. Every association shall have the right to enter teams in the A classification.
- "B" The intermediate competitive classification, also essentially a development program, but primarily intended to provide a uniform competitive experience for smaller communities and programs that are not able to compete effectively at the A classification. Every association that has an A classification team shall also have the right to enter teams in the B classification.
- "C" The lowest competitive classification, also intended as an entry level for new communities and programs in order to provide a good competitive experience until they are ready to advance to a higher competitive classification. There shall be no regional or state tournaments at the C level. All associations that have teams in A or B classifications shall also be entitled to enter teams in the C level.
- "House" Similar to the "C" classification, but limited to an "in-house" program (Teams do not participate in any way outside of their home association).
- "Recreational" Similar to the "C" classification, but limited to two activities per week (maximum) within a recreational league or organization (teams do not participate in any way outside of their recreational league or organization). No tournaments are allowed at this level, but a year-end play-off is permitted.
- D. Interlevel Play - There shall be no interlevel play (games or scrimmages) between divisions (i.e. Pee wee vs. Bantam, 14U vs. 12U) or between classifications (A and B, B and C or A and C teams), with the exception of Youth 16&Under and Junior Gold "B". In special circumstances where interlevel play between classifications is appropriate, approval of the cognizant District Director(s) must be obtained. Interlevel play is not permitted in invitational tournaments or MH playoff tournaments, with the exception that Youth 16&Under teams may participate in Junior Gold "B" invitational tournaments. Teams violating this provision may be declared ineligible to compete in any MH sanctioned invitational tournaments and the MH district, regional and state tournaments for the current season, and, in case of flagrant violations, for such further period of time as the district director shall deem appropriate. House league and city recreational league teams must be registered as C teams if they intend to play other teams outside of their hockey community. District Directors may permit a B or C classification team from small cities or newly developed programs to play in a higher classification league if there is no comparable classification league available.
- E. Classification by District Director - It shall be the responsibility of the district director to review and finalize the classification of all teams. Each association shall submit the proposed classification for each team to the district director prior to November 15th. The District Director's decision may be appealed to the Gold or Maroon Coordinator whose decision shall be final.
- F. MITE HOCKEY – MH strongly encourages the skill level development of all players, especially at the entry level. Therefore, the following is effective for the Mite level.
1. Mite teams shall participate within their district only, except the District Director may, for convenience or to maintain continuity, permit a team to play outside the district. The District Director's decision is final.
 2. Cross-ice, ½ ice and small area games are recommended for Mites to increase ice time, puck touches and skill development. Using the ADM model as a guideline, Districts and local associations shall establish a maximum number of games, not to exceed 15 full-ice games. The above policies will be monitored by each local association and District. Failure to comply will result in sanctions against the respective association as determined by MH.
 3. MH does not permit Mite Tournaments. MH Mite teams cannot participate in out-of-state tournaments.
- G. SQUIRT HOCKEY – MH strongly encourages the skill development of all players especially at the entry levels. Therefore, the following is effective for the Squire level.
1. No league standings shall be kept.
 2. Limit games (league/tournament/exhibition games) to a maximum of 35 per season. Each tournament game counts as one game. For Squirts, controlled scrimmages count as games and not as practices.
 3. A three to one practice to game ratio shall be supported by all associations.
 4. A and B squirts must be allocated an equal quality and number of ice hours.
 5. The above policies will be monitored by each local association and district. Failure to comply will result in sanctions against the respective Association as determined by MH.
 6. There shall be no region or state tournaments at the squirt level.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

The playing rules in this section apply to all games unless modified elsewhere in these rules.

- A. USA Hockey playing rules as modified by MH shall be used.
- B. The length of periods during regular season play shall be at the discretion of the individual leagues and teams in all divisions. (NOTE: Time requirements for District, Regional and State tournament play - MH Youth Rules & Regulations entitled "District, Region and State Tournaments", "Playing Time".)
- C. Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical needs. Medals shall be taped to the body under the uniform so as not to remain visible. Penalty: first offense, warning. Returning to the game without correction: Game Misconduct.
- D. At the Jr Gold and 16 & Under divisions, the "tag-up rule" as described in USAH Adult Rules shall be used.
- E. The penalty for fighting in the Junior Gold and 16 & Under division for the first offense will be the remainder of the game plus 3 games. For a second violation the player will be removed from the program. All provisions in the USA Hockey Official Playing Rules that apply to the Midget age division and younger shall also apply to the Junior Gold and 16 & Under division except as modified by MH.

- F. At the Junior Gold and 16 & Under divisions, a Game Ejection may be called on any player/team official. The player/team official will be removed only from the game being played when receiving this penalty.
- G. At the Junior Gold division and the 16 & Under division, a Game Ejection shall be automatically assessed when a player receives a third penalty during a single game. Enforcing this penalty is the joint responsibility of the referees, the scorekeeper, the coach and the player.
1. If it is determined during a game that a team allowed a player to continue to participate after receiving their third penalty, the game will be immediately forfeited to the other team.
 2. A completed game may be protested if it is suspected that a team allowed a player to continue to participate after receiving their third penalty. The protest must be filed with the proper authority within one hour for tournament games, and within 24 hours for league games. The protesting party must provide evidence to substantiate this claim. If verified, the subject game will be forfeited.
- H. Only the players (maximum 20) and coaches (maximum 4) that are listed on the official USA Hockey Player Roster or a replacement coach(es) approved by the district director are allowed to be on the bench during any MH/USA Hockey sanctioned competition. Replacement coaches must be currently registered and rostered on a MH/USAH team and can use their current team roster for purposes of credential verification. In order to participate in any team activities, all coaches (head and assistant) must be certified at the proper Coaching Education Program (CEP) level according to the requirements set forth by USA Hockey. Coaches of pre-season High School teams need to be CEP-certified at the proper level when the team is registered. Managers are not allowed to be on the bench. All Players on the bench, including players not dressed to play in the game, must wear a helmet/face mask and team jersey.
- I. Players or team officials suspended as a result of a Match penalty cannot participate in any team activities including being in the locker room or on the players' bench. Refer to USAH Rules 404(B) and 404(C).
- J. **Team Rest** - Teams shall not participate in more than two (2) on-ice activities per day, nor shall they participate in more than one tournament at a time (no overlapping days). On-ice activities include games, exhibition games and/or practices. There shall be a minimum of three (3) hours between on-ice activities on the same day and ten (10) hours between on-ice activities on consecutive days. The time is from the end of one on-ice activity to the beginning of the next.
- K. All players, including goalkeepers, are required to wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece, which covers all remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper.
- L. All players jerseys in all Youth and Girl's Divisions, except Mites and Mini Mites, must have a blaze orange "Stop Patch" displayed in the upper center on the back of all jerseys. This includes the MH Advanced 15, 16, 17 and Great 8 teams. This patch/logo may be sewn or silk-screened on the jerseys.
- M. **Exhibition Games and Controlled Scrimmages**
1. An Exhibition Game is defined as a contest between two teams that is not held in MH sanctioned league or invitational tournament play. To be considered an exhibition game:
 - a. All applicable rules of USAH and MH, including those pertaining to rest periods and the use of certified officials, must be followed.
 - b. If either of the participants is subject to a maximum number of games rule, imposed by USAH, MH or the Affiliate Association governing the participant's activities, the exhibition game shall be counted towards the maximum number of games allowed.
 2. Coaches-on-ice scrimmages or "controlled scrimmages" are allowed as a coaching tool for teaching position play and to address various game situations, subject to the following minimum criteria. All of the criteria must be met for the event to be considered a Coaches-On-Ice scrimmage.
 - a. At least one coach from each team must be on the ice for the purpose of instruction.
 - b. No official scorekeeper, timekeeper or "game clock" can be used.
 - c. Teams can switch ends at some point, if desired.
 - d. The event is conducted as a practice, with the coaches stopping play from time to time to make observations and provide instruction on player positioning, etc.
- N. All coaches involved in on-ice activities, practices and scrimmages are required to wear a HECC approved hockey helmet. The chin strap must be buckled at all times. Compliance rests on the local associations and the local District. Failure to comply shall result in up to 30 day suspension by the District Director.
- O. **Scoresheets** – A scoresheet shall be used for all games; league, tournament and scrimmage.
1. The scoresheet shall include, at a minimum, the following information:
 - Date, time and location of the game.
 - The division and classification of the teams.
 - The home and visiting team player rosters including player names and numbers.
 - The home and visiting team coaches names, USA Hockey Coach Education Program (CEP) card numbers, CEP level attained and the year of certification.
 - Scoring and penalty information.
 - Printed names of the referee(s) and the linesmen and the signature of the referee(s).
 2. For MH District, Region and State Tournaments, the scoresheets shall be signed by all participating coaches attesting to the accuracy of the player roster and the CEP Information.
 3. If a game misconduct or match penalty is assessed, the on-ice officials shall receive the top copy of the scoresheet to accompany a game report to the cognizant district supervisor of officials.
- P. **Fair Play**
1. All leagues administered by MH shall use Fair Play rules to determine league standings. League standings will be determined using the following Fair Play point system: Win = 2 points, Tie = 1 point, Loss = 0 points, plus 1 Fair Play point. In the event that teams played an unequal number of games,

the standings can be determined by a percentage of available points in the games played. The following delineates the recommended Fair Play rules. Leagues may amend these rules by submitting changes in writing for approval by the HEP committee prior to the start of league.

2. Each team starts the game with their Fair Play point. They will lose their Fair Play point if:
 - a. Total Fair play penalty minutes criteria is exceeded.
 - b. Per Conduct Rule XIV.C.2, spectator conduct becomes so abusive that, in referee(s)' opinion, it is distracting from the game or inciting players, requiring the referee(s) to stop play and request specified individuals leave the arena.
 - c. Coach is assessed a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty.
 - d. An off-ice official (timekeeper, scorekeeper, penalty box attendant) provided by one of the teams exhibits conduct that results in the person being removed from their position by the referee(s).
3. Fair Play total "equivalent" penalty minute criteria. (Criteria based on 1 hour games for Pee wee/12&Under and below and 1½ hour games for Bantam/14&Under and up.)
 - a. Squirt - 10 minutes
 - b. Pee Wee - 12 minutes
 - c. Bantam - 14 minutes
 - d. 16 & Under - 16 minutes
 - e. Jr. Gold - 16 minutes
 - f. Girls 10&Under - 8 minutes
 - g. Girls 12&Under - 10 minutes
 - h. Girls 14&Under - 12 minutes
 - i. Girls 16&Under - 14 minutes
 - j. Girls 19&Under - 14 minutes
4. For the purposes of total Fair Play penalty minutes, the following outlines the penalty "equivalency" minutes associated with each of the following classifications of penalties:
 - a. Minor/Bench Minor Penalty - 2 Minutes
 - b. Major Penalty - 5 Minutes
 - c. Misconduct Penalty - 10 Minutes
 - d. Game Misconduct - 10 Minutes
 - e. Match Penalty - 10 Minutes
 - f. Check from Behind (2 & 10) - 12 Minutes
 - g. Misconduct for no mouth guard - 2 Minutes
 - h. Penalty Shot - Equivalent minutes to penalty assessed

[Note – See Minor Penalty Pilot Program details printed on the page after the Youth Rules.]
5. In the event of a tie between two or more teams in the final league standings, the following process shall be used to determine position in the standings. In the event that the tied teams played an unequal number of games, the formula results stated below must be determined by a percentage of available points in the games played. When the tie involves two teams, the tie breaking formulas shall be used in succession until the tie is broken beginning with 5.a. When the tie involves three or more teams, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking process. If one formula establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process again at formula 5.a.
 - a. Head to head competition among tied teams including Fair Play points.
 - b. Most wins in league play.
 - c. Fewest losses in league play
 - d. Most Fair Play points earned in league play
 - e. Largest goal differential among tied teams. (six max. per game)
 - f. Greatest quotient; goals for divided by goals against among tied teams.
 - g. Largest goal differential for all league play. (six max. per game)
 - h. Greatest quotient; goals for divided by goals against for all league play.
 - i. Flip of a coin by a league official in the presence of the District Director.
6. For Squirts and 10&Under leagues, Fair Play point standings may be kept and published. Individual Fair Play Sportsmanship awards are available for teams earning 90% of their league's Fair Play points.
7. Forfeits: The team that initiates the forfeit does not receive the Fair Play point. The team not forfeiting receives the Fair Play point, unless the forfeit is mid-game and they have already lost the Fair Play point.

Q. Leagues

1. Teams may participate only in leagues recognized and approved by the Board or its designate(s).
2. Leagues formed within a MH district consisting solely of teams from within that district and approved by the cognizant district director shall be deemed as approved leagues.
3. Leagues consisting of teams from two or more MH districts shall be deemed approved, provided that they are formed with the approval of the district directors from the MH districts in which the teams originate.
4. Leagues not formed under district or multi-district supervision (non-district leagues), that are approved by the applicable District Director(s), will operate under the jurisdiction of the cognizant Regional Vice President. The Board may establish stipulations under which non-district leagues can be formed.
5. All leagues, whether formed intra-district, inter-district or otherwise, must conform to all USAH and MH rules and regulations.
6. Only teams participating in leagues under district jurisdiction are eligible for MH post season play.

IX. PROTESTS

Protests relating to the playing of the game are not allowed in any MH play. This includes scrimmage games, league games, invitational tournament games and MH tournament games with the following exceptions:

- A. Districts or Leagues may establish a protest policy/process for their district or league games. If such a policy/process is adopted, the cognizant district director shall be the final authority - no further appeals are allowed.
- B. Ineligible player protests will be accepted in MH sanctioned competition. The protesting team must furnish evidence substantiating the ineligibility of the player in question. The protest must be made to the cognizant district director or tournament director who will rule on the player's eligibility and whose decision shall be final. If the player is ruled ineligible, all games in which the ineligible player participated will be forfeited.

The protest must be filed within one hour for tournament games and twenty-four hours for league games after the completion of the game in which the alleged violation occurred.

X. DISTRICT, REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- A. **DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS** - District tournaments shall be the responsibility of the district directors and held in compliance with MH Rules & Regulations. Each district shall bear its own expense. Special district league rules and penalties shall not apply to or carry over into regional tournaments. District representatives to the region tournaments must be selected by the Sunday prior to the start of the region tournaments.
- B. **INTENTION TO ENTER DISTRICT TOURNAMENT** - Teams or leagues wishing to participate in state tournament play-down shall notify their district director no later than December 31 of the playing season. Each District Director may require any team within his/her district, that desires to enter State Tournament play-offs, to participate in that district's league play to determine that team's eligibility for such play-offs according to the rules of that district or league. (Note: Under the provisions of this rule, a District Director may require the district's league to accept a team(s) for participation in that league).
- C. **DISTRICT "C" TOURNAMENTS** - Each district director is responsible to supervise arrangements for their C-level district tournament. A city recreational league representative is eligible to enter district tournaments provided that all teams in the league are properly registered with USA Hockey.
- D. **REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENT FEES** - The MH Board of Directors shall set tournament entry and spectator fees on an annual basis. These fees will be published on the inside front cover of the MH Handbook. Any fee in excess of the adopted amount must be approved by the cognizant section vice president and the Tournament Committee no later than the preceding fall meeting. Once fees are established for a given year, there will be no financial reimbursements by MH, except for State Tournament subsidies.
- E. **STATE TOURNAMENT SUBSIDY** - MH will provide a \$1500 subsidy to State Tournament hosts. This payment will be made only after the host completes and submits the MH State Tournament Financial Report to MH within 30 days of the completion of the State Tournament. Hosts not completing and submitting the form within the established timeframe will not receive the subsidy.
- F. **STATE TOURNAMENT FORMAT** - MH State youth tournaments shall consist of eight teams. The format shall be championship single elimination with a consolation division. There shall be games to determine third place, consolation champion and state champion, but no game to determine seventh place. The tournaments shall start on Friday and conclude on Sunday, with each team playing one game on Friday and one game on Saturday. On Sundays, no games shall be scheduled to begin before 9 am or start after 5 PM.
- G. All players on each team in region and state tournament play shall have similarly colored jerseys with numbers conspicuously displayed and each player and team must wear matching socks, if available. Two sets of jerseys with contrasting colors should be available.
- H. Host associations are only required to give out a maximum of four (4) passes to team officials (coaches), and at their discretion may give an extra pass to the team manager.
- I. **PLAYING TIME**
1. In regional and state tournament play, games for Junior Gold and younger will consist of three 15 minute periods of actual playing time. Start times shall be scheduled at one hour and 45 minutes intervals (minimum). In district tournament play, games for Junior Gold and younger will consist of three 12 to 15 minute periods of actual playing time as determined by the cognizant district director.
 2. Running time shall be used during district, region and state tournaments whenever a goal differential of six (6) occurs in the 3rd period. Stop time shall resume if the goal differential becomes less than six.
 3. Where running time is used in district, region or state tournament play, the clock shall not be stopped for any reason except for injuries or rink problems and only at the discretion of the referee. Penalties shall begin at the face-off immediately following the assessment of the penalty. Penalties shall not be posted on the scoreboard unless they can be entered without stopping the clock.
- J. **BREAKING OF TIES**
1. In case of a tie at the end of the regulation playing time in region or state tournament games, the teams shall not change goals and sudden victory overtime play shall ensue using the following format.
 - a. A two minute rest, then a first overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - b. A two minute rest, then a second overtime period – five minutes – four on four
 - c. Resurface the ice, then conduct additional ten-minute overtime periods - three on three - followed by two minute rests. In the event of a penalty, the non-penalized team would be allowed a fourth player (four on three). The penalized player (or player serving the penalty) would return to the ice when the penalty is over, and four on four play would continue until there is a stoppage of play, at which time three on three would resume.
 - d. Refer to paragraph entitled "Ice Resurfacing" herein for resurfacing requirements.
 2. Exception: For State Tournament first-place games and regional games which are either first-place games or games that seed teams directly to the state tournament, the following sudden-victory overtime format shall be used. The teams shall not change goals during the entire sudden-victory overtime.
 - a. A two minute rest, then a first sudden-victory overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - b. A two minute rest, then a second sudden-victory overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - c. Resurface the ice, then conduct additional ten-minute sudden-victory overtime periods, as needed, five on five, with two-minute rests between periods and resurfacing after every three periods. This plan of play shall continue until one team scores. If the teams remain tied after three ten-minute periods of sudden-victory overtime, the tournament director, in the best interest of the tournament, has the option of suspending the game and completing it at a later time.

3. Method of determining a champion in round robin tournament play: The standings shall be determined on the basis of two (2) points for a win, zero (0) points for a loss, and one (1) point for a tie. (During district, region and state tournaments, regardless of format, all games will be played to a win/lose situation. There will be no ties.) If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by:
 - a. The results of the games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 1. The points acquired in these games.
 2. Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games. Their position shall be in order of the greatest surplus.
 3. Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against. The positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient.
 - b. If after applying the formulas of a.1, a.2, or a.3 the tie still exists, a.2 and a.3 shall be applied using all the games played by each team. When the tie involves three or more teams, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process again at step 3.a.1.
 - c. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the team that scored the first and fastest goal in a game will be the tie-breaker. If the teams are still tied, the teams shall use a shoot out procedure. This will involve each team selecting five (5) players who will alternate taking penalty shots. A toss of the coin will determine which team will take the first shot. If after five (5) players from both teams have completed this procedure, the tie still has not been broken, it shall be repeated with five (5) different players until the standings are determined.
- K. ALL STAR SELECTIONS - There shall be no all-star team selected or awards given individual players in MH District, Regional and State tournaments.
- L. GOAL JUDGES - Goal Judges are recommended for all Invitational and MH District Tournaments. Goal Judges are mandatory for Regional and State Tournaments. When Goal Judges are used, they must be experienced and competent adults.
- M. MEDICAL ATTENTION - A Certified Athletic Trainer, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), paramedic or medical or osteopathic physician shall be retained by the sanctioned tournament and in attendance at each game in progress. This group shall include a licensed health care professional, a Certified Athletic Trainer, an Emergency Medical Technologist (EMT) and any additional persons who have successfully completed and maintained certification for programs conducted by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association, specifically AFORE (Advanced First Aid), CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation), and BLS (Basic Life Support). This group would include Registered Nurses (RN) if they have successfully completed and maintained certification for AFA/CPR/BLS. The retained medical personnel has the final say on whether an injured player can return to the game.
- N. STATE TOURNAMENT SITE ROTATION
 1. The Peewee and Bantam State Tournaments will rotate annually from Gold to Maroon. In 1990, Peewees will be in the Gold division; Bantams will be in the Maroon division; in 1991, Peewees will be in the Maroon division; Bantams will be in the Gold division and so forth.
 2. The Junior Gold State Tournament will rotate two (2) years in the Maroon division and one (1) year in the Gold division starting with the 2000 tournament (2000 and 2001 in the Maroon and 2002 in the Gold and so forth). The number of teams seeded to the tournament will be based on the total percentage of teams; however, there will be a minimum of two Gold teams seeded when Gold is host.
- O. LOCATION/FORMAT/GAME SCHEDULE - The location (community and arena) of each regional and state tournament must be submitted by the hosting District Director or the cognizant Divisional Vice President to the MH Vice President for Tournaments on or before the summer meeting of the MH Board of Directors. The tournament formats, including tournament dates and game times must be submitted to the Vice President for Tournaments no later than November 1 in the year preceding the tournament. If the above requirements are not met, the Vice President for Tournaments shall notify the cognizant Divisional Vice President within five days following the deadline. The cognizant Divisional Vice President is responsible for resolving the problem. This resolution must be accomplished within fifteen (15) days and the Vice President of Tournaments is to be so notified. For Region and State tournaments with elimination-brackets, the team on the top of the bracket is home. For round-robin tournaments, the home team shall be clearly indicated.
- P. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS - The following minimum requirements shall apply to the facilities used for MH Region and State Tournaments. Any exceptions to these requirements must be requested in writing to the MH Vice President for Tournaments for consideration by the Tournaments Committee.
 1. The ice sheet shall be a minimum of 200'x85', refrigerated (artificial), enclosed in a building which seats a minimum of 500 spectators.
 2. The facility must have a mechanical resurfacers (Zamboni) in good operating condition. If propane or gasoline powered, a catalytic muffler should be installed and adequate building ventilation must be provided.
 3. Four dressing rooms (minimum) are required. They must be of sufficient size to accommodate 20 players, their equipment, and four adults with easy access to lavatory facilities.
 4. A separate dressing room for the on-ice officials is required, sized for four adults with their equipment, and with easy access to lavatory facilities.
 5. Penalty boxes must be separate for each team, with separate doors for each that open into the box.
 6. Players' bench must have a minimum of two doors which open into the bench area, and be sufficiently sized for twenty players plus three adults.

7. Players' bench and penalty box doors should be positioned so that players entering the ice surface are not placed off-sides.
 8. Scoreboard with capacity to show period, time remaining in period and two penalty times remaining per team is required. A backup stop-watch time keeping device must be available at the arena.
 9. Goal judge lights are recommended for Regional Tournaments, and required for State Tournaments.
 10. All lines on the ice (red line, blue line, goal line, goal crease face-off circles, etc.) must be placed in accordance with USA Hockey rules and clearly visible.
 11. A public address system in the arena is required.
 12. Skate sharpening service must be provided at the arena.
 13. A full service concession stand is recommended. Miscellaneous supplies such as mouthguards, tape, sticks, and skate laces should be available for sale.
- Q. SCHEDULE CHANGES - Only in cases of emergency should the announced game schedule be changed. Game schedules for regional and state tournaments will not be changed without prior approval of MH Vice President for Tournaments. Often, teams wish to change the time for the consolation and/or third place game. The changing only results in additional problems. All teams entering the tournament will know in advance the game schedule and are expected to play the games when scheduled.
- R. CREDENTIALS - A Credentials Committee, including an official of MH such as a District Director or his/her designee, shall check each team's credentials prior their playing of any games. Each team participating in invitational, district, region or state tournaments must present the following credentials package to the Credentials Committee prior to participating in the tournament. Any team that does not have a properly completed credentials package is not allowed to participate in the tournament. A meeting of the coaches and managers of the participating teams should be held before the tournament starts.
1. Player Roster completely filled out including the signatures of all participants (players and team officials). This roster must be signed by an individual that is authorized to approve rosters.
 2. A copy or photo copy of the IMR for each rostered player. Players registered and rostered via the CyberSport Registration System do not need IMR copies.
 3. A birth certificate issued by a governmental body (not a hospital certificate or a baptismal certificate) or a passport for each rostered player.
 4. A copy or photo copy of the IMR for each rostered team official. Team officials registered and rostered via the CyberSport Registration System do not need IMR copies. Note: for Minnesota District teams, individuals listed as "Managers" on the Official Roster are not allowed on the bench.
 5. Waivers for any players who are not members of the team's affiliate, based on the Participation Rule. Waivers apply only to MH teams. Invitational Tournaments are not required to check waivers.
 6. An approval letter from the Minnesota District Registrar for any player that is playing in a younger age group than is implicit based on the player's birthdate.
 7. High School attendance certification form for Junior Gold and 16 & Under teams.
 8. For MH District, Region and State tournaments, the credentials committee will be responsible for checking the Coaching Education Program certification requirements prior to the first game of the tournament.
- S. SIGN-IN SHEET – MH District, Region and State Tournaments must use a sign-in sheet for players before their first game. The signatures must be compared to those on the USA Hockey roster to verify the players' identity. Players may be required to sign in at subsequent games at the Tournament Director's discretion.
- T. TOURNAMENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – A committee comprised of three people must be appointed by the host District Director to hear protests and grievances. This committee is considered the "authority having jurisdiction" to hold hearings for match or gross misconduct penalties, make determinations on player eligibility questions, and deal with other issues which may arise. The host District Director or another MH Director or Officer must serve as the committee chairperson.
- U. ICE SURFACING - In regional and state MH tournaments the ice shall be resurfaced before each game and at intermission between the 2nd and 3rd periods. If the game goes into overtime, resurfacing shall occur at the end of the second overtime period and at the end of every three overtime periods thereafter. District tournaments may reduce resurfacing requirements to between every two periods of play.
- V. AWARDS – MH Districts are responsible for awards for district tournaments. MH will provide appropriate team/individual awards for region and state tournaments.
- W. TOURNAMENT OUTLINE – Information describing Regional tournaments must be provided to the Districts from which teams will be sent, including the site, dates, game times, bracketing, pairing, rules and lodging arrangements if applicable. Similar State tournament info must be provided to corresponding Regional tournament hosts. This info must be given to advancing teams as soon as they are determined.
- X. REPORTING RESULTS – The following must be reported to the MH Executive Director immediately at the conclusion of each MH district, region or state tournament:
1. For districts and regions, report the names of teams advancing to the next tournament. This information should also be passed on to the host for the next tournament.
 2. For state, report the participants and scores of all the games.

XI. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

- A. All invitational tournaments that involve teams from more than one MH district, including tournaments played outdoors on natural ice, must be sanctioned by MH. If the tournament will include teams from outside MH, then USA Hockey sanction is also required.
- B. An Association and/or a MH District may conduct special events as authorized by the District Director, provided that only teams from within that district participate. Special events authorized by the District

Director must follow all rules for sanctioning invitational tournaments except that there is no sanction fee and these events are not subject to the January 15th sanctioning deadline. Any event involving three or more teams, excluding regularly scheduled league games, is considered to be an invitational tournament, unless the teams are all from the same district and/or the event has been authorized as a special event.

- C. The conditions for sanctioning invitational tournaments are as follows:
1. All teams participating must be registered with USA Hockey or another International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) affiliate such as the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA).
 2. Guaranteed Gate tournaments are allowed, with the understanding that the single team payment includes all tournament entry and spectator admission fees with no additional charges.
 3. Invitational tournaments of the same age group and division cannot be held on the same weekend within a 50 mile radius of a MH state tournament. Where more than one ice sheet is available at a single arena complex, no invitational tournament may be held at that arena complex on the same weekend where a MH Regional or State Tournament is being held. Invitational sponsors agree to refund entry fees of all teams which qualify for district, regional or state MH tournaments where there is a conflict in dates.
 4. Only USAH registered referees may officiate, and USAH playing rules as modified by MH and MH age divisions must be used.
 5. MH Youth Rules and Regulations paragraphs entitled "Credentials" and "Medical Attention" in the District, Region and State Tournaments section apply to all invitational tournaments.
 6. The MH fee to sanction an invitational tournament is \$100 for each division and classification (i.e. For a tournament with Squirt A, Peewee A, and Peewee B levels, the sanction fee is \$300).
 7. If team(s) from outside of MH participate, a USA Hockey invitational tournament sanction fee is also required, consisting of one of the following:
 - a. A fee set by USA Hockey for registered teams from outside of MH
 - b. A fee set by USA Hockey for team(s) from other IIHF Federations (i.e. Canada).Note that the USA Hockey fee is per tournament, not per division/classification.
 8. The following items must be submitted by the sponsoring MH Association to the cognizant district director or the district tournament coordinator for preliminary approval:
 - a. Completed tournament application on the official MH sanction application form
 - b. Copy of proposed tournament rules, including tournament entry fee information
 - c. Tournament bracketing, with ice times
 - d. One check, payable to MH, for each application that includes the MH and USAH sanction fees.Applications submitted without the above items will be returned. Once preliminarily approved, applications will be forwarded to the Vice President of Tournaments for final MH approval.
 9. An application to host an invitational tournament must be received by the cognizant District Director or the district tournament coordinator no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled first day of the tournament. Applications will not be accepted after January 15.
 10. LATE APPLICATIONS - The MH tournament sanction fee for applications received less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled first day of the tournament will be \$200 for each level. Additionally, sanction applications received less than seven days prior to the start of a proposed tournament are subject to outright rejection or a fine of up to \$500 (in addition to the \$200 per level fee), as determined by the MH Vice President of Tournaments.
 11. Modifications to an approved application (such as changes in tournament rules, ice times, bracketing, or teams participating) must be submitted for review and approval by the MH Vice President of Tournaments at least seven days prior to the start of the tournament.
 12. The completed and approved sanction form and accompanying materials (tournament rules and bracketing) serve as a contract between the sponsoring affiliate and MH/USAH as to how the tournament will be conducted. Un-approved changes to this contract (such as changing brackets, game time, or rule substitutions) will be considered a sanction violation, subject to penalties defined below.
 13. Hosting an unsanctioned tournament or violating MH and/or USA Hockey tournament rules will be cause for penalties to the hosting association:
 - a. For the first offense, the association will not be allowed to host invitational tournaments at the division/classification (Bantam A, Peewee B, etc.) at which the violation occurred for the balance of the current season and the following season.
 - b. For the second offense within a three year period, the association will not be allowed to host or participate in invitational tournaments and MH playoffs at any level for the balance of the current season and the following season.
 - c. In the event that the violation is considered a minor or inadvertent error, a penalty may be reduced at the discretion of the MH Vice President of Tournaments and the cognizant District Director.
 - d. Penalized Associations may not have another affiliate association host tournaments at the penalized association's sites.Evaluation of the circumstances and assessment of the above penalties shall be the joint responsibility of the cognizant District Director(s) and the Vice President of Tournaments. In the event of a dispute regarding the penalties that are to be assessed, the matter shall be decided by the Tournaments Committee. Committee decisions shall be considered a "decision of MH". (Refer to Bylaws Article 7, Board of Directors, District Directors Duties)
 14. Teams participating in unsanctioned tournaments may be suspended from MH activities for the balance of that season and the following season.

- D. EXEMPT EVENTS – The following events are not required to submit Applications for Sanction or pay sanction fees:
1. MN Hockey District, Region, and State Tournaments.
 2. Events involving teams from a single MN Hockey District.
- The rules and bracketing to be used for either of the above events must be provided to the MN Hockey Vice President of Tournaments or the District Director.
- E. Jamborees may be conducted only at the Mite level.
- Definition of a Jamboree: A Jamboree is a low-key full participation event where players have an enjoyable and learning experience in a non-competitive environment. Jamborees need not be registered as tournaments, but must follow the "Team Rest" provisions as provided for under "Playing Rules". The format used for a Jamboree shall be as follows:
1. Approval to conduct a Jamboree must be obtained from the cognizant District Director at least thirty (30) days in advance.
 2. All teams must be from a single MH District, unless approved in writing by the MH Directors involved.
 3. Information referring to the event must state "Jamboree", not tournament.
 4. Team fees can cover only the costs for ice time, officials, medical attendants and participant awards.
 5. There can be no gate fee. A free-will donation box will be permitted.
 6. USA Hockey certified officials must be used.
 7. No score may be kept, no winners, no losers, no standings. This will generally require a predetermined round-robin format to be followed.
 8. No statistics may be kept, such as shots, saves, goals, assists, time of possession, etc.
 9. Participation awards, if presented, shall be the same for all participants. No team awards or trophies.
- F. Interstate, National and International tournaments, refer to the MH By-Law Article entitled "Registration" and the Article Entitled "International Competition".
- G. Invitational tournaments shall be scheduled so as to minimize the time a player is away from school. When preparing invitational tournament schedules, every consideration shall be given to schedule games in a manner that does not require a player to miss any school time.
1. Associations hosting invitational tournaments wherein there are games scheduled when school is in session shall advertise this fact in any promotional material used to recruit tournament participants.
 2. No team traveling more than fifty (50) miles, one way, from the invitational tournament site shall be required to play a game that starts prior to 6:00 PM on a school day, unless the team has specified its willingness to do so. Teams who are willing to play in games that require taking time away from school must indicate this willingness, in writing, on their invitational tournament entry form. The association hosting the invitational tournament must keep these forms on file for a period of one (1) year from the scheduled tournament date for audit purposes. In the event Minnesota Hockey finds it necessary to perform such an audit, and the association being audited is not able to provide the appropriate tournament entry forms, that association will be deemed to be in violation of this rule.
 3. No team traveling more than fifty (50) miles, one way, to play in a invitational tournament shall be required to play in a game that starts prior to 6:00 PM on a school day, unless the host team and any other team from within a fifty (50) mile radius, is playing in the same game or in an earlier game scheduled on the same day.
 4. In the event it becomes necessary to change a tournament schedule and such change requires that a team must involuntarily play a game that will take its players away from school, that team will be allowed to withdraw from the tournament, and any fees paid by that team shall be fully refunded by the tournament host, within seven (7) days after the date of withdrawal.
 5. Minnesota Hockey affiliates who authorize others within their affiliate to conduct sanctioned tournaments shall be responsible for compliance with this rule.
 6. Tournament host associations who violate this rule, or any portion thereof, will lose tournament sanctioning privileges and/or the right to host a Minnesota Hockey tournament for a period of not less than one (1) year from the end of the season in which the violation occurred.

XII. ON-ICE OFFICIALS

- A. The three-official system (one referee; two linesmen) or the two-official system will be used.
1. The three-official system is mandatory for all Jr. Gold A&B, 16&Under Youth, Bantam A, Girls 14&Under A and Women's 19 & Under District, Playoffs, Regional and State Tournament games.
 2. The three-official system is mandatory for all Bantam B, Peewee A and Girls 12&Under A State Tournament games. The three-official system is recommended for Bantam B, Peewee A and Girls 12&Under A District, Playoffs and Region Tournament games.
 3. The two-official system will be used for all Peewee B, Girls 14&Under B, Girls 12&Under B and Sr. Women District, Playoffs, Regional and State Tournament games.
 4. If a scheduled official for the three-official system fails to appear or is injured during the game and no replacement official is available, the game may continue using the two-official system.
 5. A minimum of two referees is required for all District, Region and State Tournament games.
- B. All on-ice officials must be registered with USA Hockey and their respective affiliate to officiate MH sanctioned games.
- C. All referees must be registered with USA Hockey at Level 3 or Level 4 to officiate District, Regional and State tournament games. Level 2 referees may be used at the "B" level with the approval of the cognizant MH District Director and the MH Referee Section Director.

- D. All on-ice officials must wear the USAH crest on their sweaters and carry their USAH registration card.
- E. All Level 3 or 4 referees must complete registration by Dec. 31.

XIII. MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS

The use, consumption or possession of mood altering chemicals, regardless of quantity, is expressly prohibited during the entire playing season. Included are: (1) beverages containing alcohol, (2) tobacco (including chewing tobacco), (3) controlled substances defined by law as drugs (including marijuana), and (4) buying, selling or giving away controlled substances. It is not a violation for a player to possess a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the player's own use by the player's physician.

A. PENALTIES

1. After confirmation of the first violation, the player shall be suspended for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a season, whichever is greater.
2. After confirmation of the second violation, the player shall be suspended for the next six consecutive games. No exception is permitted for a player who participates in a treatment program.
3. After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the player shall be suspended for the next twelve consecutive games. No exception is permitted for a player who participates in a treatment program.
4. If after the third or subsequent violations the player on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MH activities after a minimum period of six weeks. Such certification must be issued by the director or counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.

B. INTERPRETATION - "Game" in this rule means regular league or playoff contest. Practice games or scrimmages cannot be counted in determining length of suspension. Associations or individual teams may adopt a more prohibitive rule and/or more severe penalties for violation of this Rule.

XIV. CONDUCT

- A. Racial or ethnic slurs and/or harassing conduct of any kind will not be tolerated.
- B. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Coaches should advise their parents and other fans of the conduct rules.
- C. If spectator conduct becomes so abusive that, in the referee(s) opinion, it is distracting from the game or inciting the players, the referee(s) may stop play and:
 1. Ask the coach(es) to control their spectators.
 2. Ask the coach(es) to request specified individuals to leave the arena.
 3. Disruptive use of artificial noise makers will be considered abusive conduct.
 4. Possession of a device that could be detrimental to the players or to the conduct of the game, such as a laser pointer, will be considered abusive conduct and shall be reported to local law enforcement officials. During MH playoffs or invitational tournaments, the MH District Director, designated district personnel or the tournament director shall have the authority to take actions as necessary to control spectator conduct.
- D. Failure of a coach to cooperate with a referee's request within two (2) minutes will result in a bench minor penalty and a warning from the referee that after an additional two (2) minutes, the game will be suspended. The game suspension will be immediately reported to the Supervisor of Officials who will then inform the cognizant MH District Director.
- E. Spectators standing by the boards behind the goalkeeper are not allowed to deliberately distract the goalkeeper. The referee may request anyone in violation of this rule to move or leave the arena. In an appropriate case, the referee may declare the game to be forfeited to the team of the goalkeeper being distracted.
- F. MH acknowledges the Locker Room Monitoring Policy as established by USA Hockey. Monitors must be of the same gender as the players and undergo background screening by MH to serve in this capacity.
 1. No team shall be allowed to enter a locker room prior to a scheduled event until a proper locker room monitor is present and such monitor shall remain present until the last player leaves the locker room. When coaches are present in the locker room, they may serve as locker room monitors.
 2. Any coach's(es) meeting(s) with an individual player shall be conducted on the ice, on the bench, in the locker room with the other team members and/or locker room monitor(s) present, or in a public setting, unless agreed otherwise by the player's parent or guardian.
 3. Alleged violations of these rules shall cause a mandatory hearing to be held in accordance with Minnesota Hockey Bylaw Article 6. If warranted, suspension penalties may be levied upon the violators up to and including a one-year suspension.
- G. Coaches, managers, minor officials, or players exuding the scent of alcohol, or while using any tobacco products, shall not be allowed within the players bench area or the penalty box area.
- H. Coaches, players, managers or spectators (fans) may not enter the Referee's room without an invitation before, during or after a game. The following minimum penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule:
 1. Coach or player - game misconduct penalty
 - a. The incident will be reported for possible additional league action and/or suspension.
 2. Manager or spectator (fan) - the Referee(s) will report the circumstances to the Supervisor of Officials who will notify the District Director.
 - a. A mandatory hearing will be held with the team coach and a representative of their association's governing board to discuss possible disciplinary action.