

Rules Committee Report 2013 Winter Meeting

rev. 1 11/27/2012



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Thursday, November 15, 2012.

The Committee considered a proposal requiring all players changing schools without completing the grades offered in the school they previously attended to be limited to "B" hockey for one year. This was referred to the District Directors Committee.

Modifications to the Bylaws, Youth Rules, Affiliate Agreement and Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol are proposed, as shown below.

Bylaws Changes

B1. The Women's Hockey Director is currently elected as determined by WHAM, but there are some registered women's teams that are not part of WHAM. This Director should be elected at a caucus of all registered teams, as are the Adults and Juniors Directors. If passed this change is intended to be effective immediately.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[B1] ~~Adult, Women and Junior Directors: Adults, Women and Juniors each shall each have a representative Director on the Board. Said Directors shall be elected by the individual team member representatives of the teams registered in each division. It shall be the duty of the Adult and Junior Directors to represent Adult and Junior hockey respectively. These Directors shall represent their respective areas, and to perform such other duties as assigned to them by the President of this Association. Said Directors and shall be elected at a caucus of the representatives from the registered teams in each division.~~
~~Women's Hockey Director: Women's hockey teams shall be entitled to elect one Director to the Board of Directors. The Director shall be elected as determined by Women's Hockey Association By Laws.~~

B2. Our Bylaws dictate how representatives will cast votes in USAH District Director elections. The same process is used to select a person to represent the Minnesota District on the USAH Women's and Girls' Section Committee. At the last election there was question as to whether votes would be cast based on all registered participants or girls/women participants. Since the rule said "same process" all participants were used. This change would use only girls/women participants. If passed, this change is intended to be effective immediately.

ARTICLE 15 - USA HOCKEY MINNESOTA DISTRICT DIRECTORS

3. MH Representatives indicated below shall cast votes in USAH Minnesota District Director elections based on their number of USAH-registered participants. The USAH Registrar will determine the number of votes that each designated representative will cast. In the event of a dispute, a committee consisting of the USAH Minnesota Directors in attendance not standing for re-election shall make a determination.

- a. District Directors Registered Youth & Girls program players and coaches in their respective Districts
- b. Juniors Director Registered Junior program players and coaches
- c. Adults Director Registered Adult program players and coaches
- d. Women's Director Registered Women's program players and coaches
- e. Disabled Hockey Director Registered Disabled Hockey program players and coaches

The MH President shall cast votes for registered participants not fitting any of the above categories.

The MH representatives listed above may designate an alternate person to cast their votes, provided such designation is provided in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the MH Secretary/Treasurer.

[B2] **4. The same process above shall be used to select a person to represent the Minnesota District on the USAH Women's and Girls' Section Committee, with the exception that the representatives indicated shall cast votes based on the number of registered girls/women participants.**

Youth Rules Changes

R1. There have been a few situations where people have tried to obtain approval for dual-rostering based on the "Special Events" clause. The Rule was established for the Spring High Performance teams and the January "pond hockey" tournament that was promoted by The Wild. The exception allows the Board to temporarily permit dual-rostering for such events.

We said we would "establish requirements" but so far this has not been done – it would be difficult, not knowing what special events might come up. The Rules Committee felt we should revise the wording to state that we reserve the right to impose requirements.

II. REGISTRATION

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 MH team and a city traveling team.
2. 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, **and are subject to requirements imposed by MH.** Approval of Special Events shall be by 2/3 vote.

R2. There have been some issues regarding who has jurisdiction over players who waived based on school attendance but no longer attend school there. The District Directors feel such players should revert back to their Association of Residence to participate or be waived.

IV. PARTICIPATION

2. Definitions

Residence - the community in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) having primary custody live(s) the majority of time when tryouts begin. A pending move is not considered unless the parent or legal guardian has closed on the sale of a new residence. Players moving after tryouts begin can be assigned to teams on a space-available basis.

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 **and continues to attend school.**

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, as follows:

- a. For schools with multiple campuses, the "main" campus shall prevail unless agreed otherwise by the affected District Director(s).
- b. If a player attends their normally-assigned public school, and that school normally includes students from more than one youth hockey association, the player shall be assigned to their Association of Residence and is not eligible for a school-attendance waiver.
- c. Players waived based on school choice shall be deemed 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.)
- d. 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).

If they stop attending school in that association's area, they revert back to their Association of Residence for participation or waiver.

R3. Remove reference to the Eligibility Provisions in Para. 7 since it does not seem to apply.

IV. PARTICIPATION

[R3] 7. A player denied a waiver or given a waiver with conditions by their Home Association may appeal in writing to the District Director having jurisdiction over the Home Association. The decision of the District Director is final. ~~Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.~~

R4. USA Hockey changed their playing rules allow tag-up [Rule 630 (d)] for Bantams/14U and up. We need to update the language in our rules allowing tag-up only for Jr Gold.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

[R4] ~~E. At the Jr Gold and 16 & Under divisions, the "tag-up rule" as described in USAH Adult Rules shall be used.~~

R5. Teams with no similarly classified teams in their vicinity have to travel for games. They can go to tournaments to get games but this becomes expensive, especially due to hotel costs. In some cases they would like to take a trip and play three games in one day (maybe 9:00a, 1:30p and 6:00p) and head home. This is not allowable under our present team rest rule. It is proposed to add an exception where three games can be played in one day in cases of limited competition with the approval of the involved District Director(s).

VIII. PLAYING RULES

[R5] L. **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. Exception **#1** – For Mites, the time between activities can be reduced to 1½ hours. **Exception #2 – in cases of limited competition, three games can be played in one day with the approval of the involved District Director(s).**

Affiliate Agreement Changes

AA1. The current in-season Affiliate Agreement requires that our associations be non-profit. This works well in our "Minnesota Model" as we understand it, but this provision would prevent a for-profit organization from affiliating with us. This could be construed as limiting membership in MN Hockey, and presents a potential anti-trust argument. It would not be improper to "strongly recommend" non-profit status, so the following changes are proposed. If passed, these changes should be effective immediately (any new Affiliate Agreements).

IV. AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

This Agreement, made and entered into this ____ day of _____, __, by and between Minnesota Hockey, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit Corporation with its principal place of business located in, St Paul, MN (hereinafter referred to as MH) and the

(Name of Association) _____

(Address) _____

(Town and Zip Code) _____

[AA1] ~~a non-profit Corporation with its principal place of business located in the city of~~

~~(Name of City) _____~~

in the State of Minnesota, (hereinafter referred to as the Affiliate) for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained.

J. 501(c)(3) Status

~~Minnesota Hockey strongly recommends that the~~ Affiliate ~~should at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code~~ **during the term of this Agreement.**

Additional changes are needed – who can sign Affiliate Agreements for Minnesota Hockey. District Director? Vice President? President? Require Board approval? Would new agreements and amendments be handled the same? This will be dealt with in the future...

Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol Changes

PT1. There was a circumstance this season where somebody wanted to transfer a Minnesota player to a Triple-A team for a week to participate in a tournament. Although it was our intent that the established protocol would be used for a season, that is not reflected in the present text.

Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol

The Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors will designate one person who will act upon all interstate waiver requests from those who submit them, using the following criteria:

1. This protocol applies to Youth and Girls programs that are conducted during the Minnesota Hockey "regular season", which extends from the date players are permitted to register for a given year through the of the Minnesota Hockey Youth/Girls State Tournaments in March, **and is intended to be used for season-long transfers**. Players in the Adult or Women classifications are excluded from this protocol.

[PT1]

[End of Rules Committee Report]