

Discernment Committee
September 18, 2009
Marriott – Minneapolis West

The Town Hall Meeting was called to order by Dennis Green at 7:00. Dave Bakke will be giving a summary of the phone calls and emails that have been received regarding the Participation Rule and then there will be discussion on the immediate needs.

Dave Bakke gave a PowerPoint presentation. Bob Halverson was the individual that stepped up to the plate and carried the ball to get all the information together in a list of items that need to be worked on and responding to the many, many questions that came in following the June board meeting.

- How are we implementing
- What needs to be adjusted
- Look forward to make the transition as smooth as possible

Bob Halverson gave a brief synopsis of the events at the April Minnesota Hockey meeting and what lead up to the meeting was presented in a PowerPoint format.

Initial Residency Rule Proposal

- Retained residency for defining association membership
- Mandated that waiver requests from open-enrolled players be automatically approved
- Eliminated Director/Association discretion
- Recognized school "attendance" – no mention of public or private
- Allowed affiliates to establish policies for waived-in players
- Directors had trouble supporting this rule
 - Impact on feedback from constituent Associations
 - Some considered participation policies on waived-in players to be unacceptable – state-wide consistency desired
 - Some felt we would be creating a two-class system
- Membership defined by school attendance first proposed

Participation Rule

- School attendance determines association membership
- Default to residence if primary school boundary overlaps HS
- Mites can register either by residence or school
- Players changing schools without changing residence ineligible to play A's for one year
- One-time choice for represent open-enrolled players to continue to participate by residence
- Last-minute tweaks
 - Remove language allowing Mites to stay with association of residence if they choose
 - Remove one-time choice option after 2009-2010 season
- Passed at the June '09 meeting

Feedback On Participation Rule

- Not enough time was allowed for registration process to be adjusted – changes to process not well defined

- Players that did not participate with MN Hockey in 08-09 season have no one-time choice opportunity
- Mite rule is confusing – new players can register by residence, but when they become squirt they must register by school attendance
- Many players reenrolled in Gr. 1-6 private schools will have to change associations when they reach Gr. 7
- Some improperly applied primary school overlapping HS boundary rule to private schools. Also some unintended fallout for Magnet/Charter schools.
- 2nd year Bantam players have to declare HS eligibility, but can't play A's there (was the same under the old rule)
- Jr Gold players cut from private schools displaced

The following were added to the list from the individuals present at the meeting:

- Multiple players in one family being in two different associations/schools
- Associations hurt because they don't have private schools and are losing players
- Loss of volunteers quitting because of the rule
- Relocation of schools
- Player mandated to C level after playing with MN Made – improper interpretation
- How do you handle online schools – residence is the deciding factor
- Open enrolled, private schools, etc. want to stay with the association of residence – rule forces families to do something they don't want to do
- School has multiple campuses
- Associations lose teams because the kids have to play where they go to school – killing small associations
- Triple A off-season coaches recruiting players to come and play during the season for the teams that they coach
- One time choice sunset clause vs perpetual one time choice
- Mite can chose to play where they live or where they go to school and can use either community to get a waiver to a third association

Path Forward

- Can't lose sight of objective – respond to survey inputs
- Leave the Participation rule as it is?
- Tweak the current rule?
- Go back to residency rule for registration, but acknowledge open enrollment?
- Let all players either by residence or school?
- Mite/Squirts register either by residence or school?

President Green asked the group to focus on what changes need to be made for this season and address the issues that need to be changed for next season at a later meeting.

It was expressed by Greg Nagan and Tom Slaird that we have lots of information tonight and need to digest it and reconvene at a later date to establish what needs to be done for next year. To address the issues being faced this year, the Discernment Committee will reconvene immediately to work on these issues. This group will consist of the 12 District Directors and the Maroon and Gold VP's.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol D. Carlson