

# Rules Committee Report

The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Thursday March 25, 2010.

Susan Welles asked the Committee to amend Youth Rules III-E to include an exemption for Women's teams participating in recreational leagues, allowing them to use a current valid state driver's license or state ID card as acceptable proof of age and gender. This committee felt that this information should be in the WHAM rules or worked out with the registration group, and that it did not belong in the Youth Rules. Accordingly, no action was taken on this request.

The Committee presents the following modifications to the Bylaws, Youth Rules and Minnesota District Operating Rules for Board consideration:

## Bylaws Changes

*B1. There was a recent circumstance where someone who was not directly involved-with or affected-by a MH decision wanted to file an appeal. In the end, the calendar-day criterion for a timely appeal was not met, and the appeal was dismissed. However, it brought to light that we presently have no restriction on who can file an appeal. Using civil suits as an analogy, it is somewhat standard practice that in order to take legal action you must have a "standing in the matter." Based on this, the following Bylaw change is proposed:*

### ARTICLE 6 - AUTHORITY - APPEALS - SUSPENSIONS - COURT ACTIONS

- A. **Authority:** The Affiliate or local governing body has the authority to make decisions in the management of their local program. In the event of a dispute, the Affiliate or vested authority shall promptly and equitably attempt to resolve the grievance, allowing affected parties to have input which may require conducting a hearing.
- B. **Grievable Decision:** If a decision is viewed to be a violation of existing rules, that decision may be appealed. In all appeals, the appealing party is required to establish the merits of the appeal.
- [B1] C. **Appeals:** Any person, team, league or local association who has a standing in the matter may appeal a grievable decision, in writing, to the District Director for a period of ten (10) calendar days, after a decision was rendered or a hearing refused within its own league or association. Such appeal must state that it is an appeal, state the rule that is claimed to be violated, and why the grieved action is a violation. The District Director shall make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a valid appeal. The decision of the District Director may be appealed, in writing, for a period of ten (10) calendar days to the cognizant Maroon or Gold Vice President, who will issue a written ruling within twelve (12) calendar days. Any decision of the Divisional Vice President may be appealed for a period of ten (10) calendar days to the MH Grievance Committee which must make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a written appeal. The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final except as noted in paragraph G. of this Article.

B2. Mn Hockey passed criteria for the Director Emeritus position at the January 26, 2003 meeting. These requirements were considered a "policy" and were not incorporated into the Bylaws. It is the opinion of the Rules Committee that these criteria need to be put into the Bylaws so they are visible. The additional verbiage as proposed is basically word-for-word from what was passed in 2003.

## ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Director Emeritus:** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint one or more persons to the position of Director Emeritus in recognition of distinguished and lengthy service to this Association. A Director Emeritus shall be a non-voting member of the board, but in all other respects shall be entitled to all of the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of other Board members.

[B2] **Candidates for Director Emeritus must meet the following qualifications:**

1. **Cannot be serving on the current Board of Directors.** In the case of an outgoing MH Board member, there must be a waiting period of at least 180 consecutive days from the date of completion of their term on the MH Board.
2. **Must be actively involved and make significant contributions to Minnesota Hockey. Actively takes part in discussions, attends meetings and has something to offer. Does not attend meetings merely to socialize.**
3. A candidate for Director Emeritus must be nominated by an active member of the Board of Directors and requires 3/4 of the votes cast for election.

**The term of office for Director Emeritus is a lifetime, governed only by their involvement and the extent that health/age permit.**

B3. A motion to set up a "Director of Disabled Hockey" position on the MH Board of Directors was approved at the January meeting. The proposed verbiage below adds the position to the Board, and would be inserted between the present "Women's Hockey Director" and "Referee Section Director" position descriptions.

## ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[B3] **Director of Disabled Hockey: Disabled teams shall be entitled to elect one Director to the Board of Directors. The director shall be elected as determined by the registered disabled teams.**

# Youth Rules and Regulations Changes

R1. This proposal defines the "Recreational" level so that it is separate and distinct from the "House" and "C" levels.

## 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. In order to encourage the development and expansion of hockey within the State and to provide uniformity of competition for the purpose of obtaining those goals, all youth hockey shall be divided into four competitive classifications as herein provided. It shall be primarily the responsibility of each district director 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.

[R1] "C" The lowest competitive classification ~~essentially a recreational program~~ but 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 level classifications shall also be entitled to enter teams in the C classification.

[R1] "House" Similar to the "C" ~~or recreational~~ classification, but limited to an "in-house" program (teams do not participate in any way outside of their home association).

[R1] **"Recreational" Similar to the "C" classification, but limited to one or 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.**

R2. At our last meeting, we approved a proposal is to eliminate verification of dob and citizenship for teams that are not eligible for invitational, district, region and state tournaments. The verbiage approved included the phrase, "and all other required documentation." Does this mean that we don't check \*anything\* for House teams including coaches' background screening and CEP information? Since the intent was to waive the requirements for checking **players**, this proposal clarifies that we did not intend to eliminate documentation for coaches.

This proposal also changes the term "House" to "Recreational" in keeping with the proposed new definition for the "Recreational" level.

## I. TEAM REGISTRATION

- [R2] A. Team Rosters Affiliates must complete a USA Hockey Roster Form for each team and submit 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 USA Hockey Registrar or designee for approval. **Players on** Teams categorized as "~~House~~" "**Recreational**" are exempt from submitting proof of date of birth, **or** proof of legal residency for non-US citizens ~~and all other required documentation.~~

R3. The proliferation of cross-ice practices and games at the Mite-level has been viewed very positively, to the point where full-ice games are discouraged. Also, questions have been asked as to why there is a stated limit to the number of games at the Squirt level, but no limit for Mites. Accordingly Maroon and Gold Directors on the Rules Committee proposed the following changes for the Mite level:

## VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

- [R3] G. **MITE HOCKEY** – MH strongly encourages the skill level development of all players, especially at the entry levels. **Therefore, the following is effective for the Mite level.**
- 1. This level player will play **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. Full-Ice games (league/exhibition games) are limited to a maximum of eight (8) per season. For Mites, full-ice controlled scrimmages count as games and not as practices.**
  - 3. MH does not permit Mite Tournaments nor does MH permit Mite teams to participate in out-of-state tournaments.**

R4. There has been some confusion on whether coaches-on-ice scrimmages count towards the 35 game limit for Squirts. Youth Rules VII-H says they count as part of the 35 game limit, but adds that they must be conducted in accordance with our definition of controlled scrimmages. The definition (Youth Rules VIII-M) says the event must be "conducted as a practice" insinuating it is not a game. The change below intends to clear this up:

## VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

- [R4] |
- H. SQUIRT HOCKEY – MH strongly encourages the skill development of all players, especially at the entry levels. Therefore, the following is effective for the Squirt level.
1. No league standings shall be kept.
  2. Limit games (league/tournament/exhibition games) to a maximum of 35 per season. Each game played in a tournament shall be counted as one game. ~~Controlled scrimmages count toward the total of 35, but must meet the definition of a controlled scrimmage as outlined in the paragraph in the Playing Rules section entitled "Exhibition Games and Controlled Scrimmages."~~ **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.

R5. Youth Rules VIII-H says that replacement coaches can be approved by the District Director. This would typically happen where a coach is temporarily unavailable due to suspension or illness. Question has arisen – what credentials are needed? Same as a replacement goalie (copy of roster on which they are registered) or do the replacement coaches need to be put on a supplemental roster? The following change clarifies the requirements.

## VIII . PLAYING RULES

- [R5] |
- 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 credentials 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.

R6. Leagues or tournaments following Fair Play rules have difficulties breaking ties where the tied teams played an unequal number of games. It is common practice to "normalize" the results to a common number of games so that the proper comparisons can be made, but there is no verbiage in the rules that specifically allow this. The Webster definition of normalize is: "to make conform to or reduce to a norm or standard." The suggested verbiage is already in effect for the Metro League since they run into this problem frequently.

## VIII . PLAYING RULES

### P. Fair Play

- [R6] |
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 normalized for a common number of games.** 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.
  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 normalized for a common number of games.** 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...

R7. Steve Anderson, Edgcumbe Hockey proposed the following to permit an association which has only "C" teams to field a team for participation in a "B" invitational tournament. In its real life example, the Edgcumbe Hockey Association, which fields "C" level teams in the City of Saint Paul would like an option for the occasional team or group of older players, based on their particular circumstances, to play a in a tournament at a higher competitive division. The Rules Committee determined that it did not support this change, and accordingly does not recommend its passage.

## XI. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

[R7] | **H. TOURNAMENT TEAMS - Under certain limited circumstances, teams may be organized for the limited purpose of competition in invitational tournaments.**

1. **An association which does not field an "A" team in a division may roster a tournament team for competition at the "A" level in an invitational tournament. An association which does not field a "B" team in a division may roster a tournament team for competition at the "B" level in an invitational tournament.**
2. **All players on a tournament team must be rostered for the current season on a team participating in league play representing the association which is fielding the tournament team.**
3. **A player may not participate on a tournament team at a lower division than the player's regular team.**
4. **The player must obtain written permission from the player's regular team coach.**

## Changes To USA Hockey Minnesota District Operating Rules

*M1. This proposed clarifies how Minnesota District elections are to be conducted where voting is weighted by participants. In cases where there are multiple positions and multiple candidates (2 positions, three candidates, vote for two), it will be clear that the maximum number of votes that can be cast for any one candidate cannot exceed the voter's actual membership total. For example, if a voter has 5,000 votes and is voting for two candidates, he/she can cast 5,000-5,000 to two candidates, 5,000-3,000-2,000 to three candidates, or 4,000-3,000-3,000 to three candidates, etc., but \*cannot\* cast 10,000 votes to one candidate, 7,000-3,000 to two candidates, 6,000-3,000-1,000 to three candidates, etc.*

[M1]

4. Minnesota District USA Hockey Directors shall be elected at the Spring meeting. The number of directors is determined by USA Hockey rules. The votes will be cast by representatives of the affiliate, and the affiliate will determine the representatives that will cast votes. The USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar will determine the number of votes that each designated representative will cast. Directors will be elected to a three year term. A vacancy can be filled at either the fall or spring meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the event that two or more Directors are being elected, there shall be one election in which each voting member casts vote(s) according to the number of Directors being elected (i.e. two Director openings, three candidates, vote for two; **only the actual membership total of votes may be cast for any one individual**) with the successful candidates being those receiving the most votes and at least a simple majority of the votes cast. In a situation where multiple positions are being elected and not all of the positions are filled on the first ballot, any candidate receiving a simple majority is elected and a subsequent election shall take place among the remaining candidates. If none of the candidates have a simple majority, the candidate receiving the least votes shall be dropped and the position re-voted. If more than one new director is being elected, seniority will be ordered by the number of votes with the one elected first or receiving the most votes being the most senior director, etc.

[End of Rules Committee Report]