

Rules Committee Report 2010 Summer Meeting

ver. r2 6/4/10



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Wednesday May 26, 2010, and proposes the following modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules for Board consideration:

Bylaws Changes

B1. At the May 2010 Annual Meeting, the Board approved a Bylaw change to incorporate language for a Director Emeritus "Policy" that had been passed at the January 26, 2003 meeting. The updated language indicates that the term of office for Director Emeritus is dependent on their involvement, but there is no definition on the level of involvement required or process to address it. The Rules Committee developed the following definition and process for Board consideration:

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. 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. **After two years of no active involvement, the designation can be discontinued by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.**

[B1]

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B2. At the last meeting, we had a circumstance where someone notified the Nominating Committee of their intent to run for a position after the two-week-prior notice had been sent out to Board members. Accordingly no one knew this person was running until the time of the election. This would be similar to being nominated from the floor (notice-wise), but ... do we want to allow this? Should the opportunity to declare candidacy through the nominating committee close after the two-week-prior notice is sent out? In reviewing this, the Committee found several discrepancies between the Bylaw verbiage for the Nominating Committee and our actual practice. Based on this, the following Bylaw change is proposed:

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

~~**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall meet at the call of its chairman, at least one month prior to the annual meeting to solicit candidates for the various offices. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to insure that there is at least one candidate for each open position. The Nominating Committee shall notify all current board members of the candidates that have been identified at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting or other meeting at which an election will be held. Nothing in the above procedure would prohibit nomination of a candidate for any position from the floor. All persons appearing before the Nominating Committee shall have their name placed on the official ballot of the annual meeting. Voting for new officers and representatives shall take place as the last order of business at the annual meeting.~~

[B2] **Elections:**

- 1. Individuals interested in being a candidate in an upcoming MH election shall notify the Nominating Committee Chairman, who shall be a Board member (preferably a Director Emeritus) appointed by the President no less than two months prior to any scheduled MH election. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall record contact information for interested candidates, and the date individuals expressed interest.**
- 2. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall notify all current Board members of the candidates that have been identified not less than two weeks prior to the annual meeting or other meeting at which an election will be held. The information shall also be posted on the MH website. If the two-weeks prior notice indicates that there is at least one identified candidate for a position, any additional individuals interested in being a candidate for that position must be nominated from the floor at the time of the election.**
- 3. In the event that no candidates have been identified for a position in an upcoming election when the two-week notice is generated, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall convene a Nominating Committee consisting of two District Directors, one maroon and one gold, and at least two Directors Emeriti. The Nominating Committee shall solicit candidates, insuring that there is at least one candidate for each open position, and notify all current Board members of candidates that have been identified at least two days prior to the annual meeting or other meeting at which an election will be held. Website info shall be also be updated, preferably as candidates are identified.**
- 4. Candidates meeting the deadline to express interest in running for positions being elected, and additional candidates identified by the Nominating Committee as described above, shall be placed into nomination by the Nominating Committee Chairman. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor by a Board member. Voting for new officers and representatives shall take place as the last order of business at the annual meeting.**

B3. This proposed change incorporates the Article 7 requirement that all committees have at least two District Directors, one Maroon and one Gold.

ARTICLE 8 - ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

[B3] The administrative management committee shall be a standing committee for the purpose of effecting and furthering the business affairs of the corporation. The committee shall consist of ~~five~~ **seven** members including the President, the Controller, the Chairs of the Publicity and Promotion, and Planning committees, **two District Directors** and one other person to be appointed by the President. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the committee. The committee shall have the authority to employ, on a part or full time basis, an employee, to be known as the Executive Director of the corporation, upon such terms and conditions as shall be mutually agreeable.

B4. MH has never officially determined the representatives that will cast votes for USAH District Director elections. It is intended that this change, if approved, would become effective immediately.

ARTICLE 15 - USA HOCKEY MINNESOTA DISTRICT DIRECTORS

1. It is the intent of MH that its current president be a USA Hockey Director and serve as an ambassador for Minnesota Hockey at the national level. Accordingly, MH shall nominate its current president as a candidate for Minnesota District Director.

[B4] 2. USA Hockey (USAH) Minnesota District Directors shall be elected using the process outlined in the USAH Minnesota District Operating Rules.

3. MH Representatives indicated below shall cast votes in USAH Minnesota District Director elections based on their number of USAH-registered participants. The USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar will determine the number of votes that each designated representative will cast. The MH President shall make a determination in the event of a dispute.

- a. District Directors Registered Youth and Girls programs 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 Dir. Registered Disabled Hockey program players and coaches

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

4. 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.

Youth Rules and Regulations Changes

R1. At the Winter 2010 meeting, we approved a proposal 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? This proposal clarifies that we intended to eliminate documentation for *players* only, retains the right for us to ask for player dob and citizenship info if we want it, and adds the term "Recreational" to the rule, in keeping with the recently passed definition for the recreational level.

I. TEAM REGISTRATION

- [R1] 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 **or Recreational**" are exempt from submitting proof of date of birth, **or** proof of legal residency for non-US citizens ~~and all other required documentation.~~ **This documentation may be required by the District Director, Registrar or local association.**

R2. In the Fall of 2005, MH approved a Youth Rules change allowing pre-post teams for 19U Girls. The proposal included the following background language:

"The following change allows Girls 19&Under Pre-season/Post-season teams to form and compete for right to represent Minnkota at the National Tournament. Although the long-term goal is to create a Fall Elite League similar to boys, this interim step would allow 19&Under-aged girls to compete at a high level. It is anticipated that this exception would be revoked when the Girls Fall Elite League gets established."

Since the Girls have a Fall Elite League up and running, it is proposed to pull the 19U pre-post language from the Handbook.

V. ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS

- [R2] 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, ~~except as provided for under the Girls 19&Under Pre-season/Post-season Limited Affiliate Agreement.~~ Refer to the Minnesota State High School League rules for future High School eligibility.

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, the District Directors proposed the following language for limiting games at 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. Cross ice, 1/2 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. For the highest level Mites, a combination of cross ice, 1/2 ice and full ice games shall not exceed 15 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 nor does MH permit Mite teams to participate in out-of-state tournaments.

[note – do we need to say anything about lower level Mites?]

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.

[End of Rules Committee Report]