

YOUTH RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

Includes Revisions as of January 2021

For the purposes of these rules and regulations:

- Youth Midget and Youth 16&Under (Jr Gold 16) classifications follow all provisions specified for the Youth Jr Gold classification
- Girls 19&Under and Girls 16&Under classifications follow all provisions specified for the Youth Jr Gold classification
- Girls 15&Under and Girls 14&Under classifications follows all provisions specified for the Youth Bantam classification
- Girls 12&Under classification follows all provisions specified for the Youth Peeewe classification
- Girls 10&Under classification follows all provisions specified for the Youth Squirt classification
- Girls 8&Under classification follows all provisions specified for the Youth Mite classification.

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 association rules and/or district league rules 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 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 "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 Director, Registrar or local association on an exception basis where citizenship, gender or age is questioned.
- B. The MH Regular Season begins Sept. 1 and ends at the completion of all youth/girls state tournaments.
- C. The MH Off-Season begins after the completion of all Youth/Girls state tournaments and ends:
- September 15 for Youth 15 with Bantam-eligible players, and Youth 14U, Girls 14U and younger classifications
 - At the beginning of the MSHSL Boys hockey season for Youth 18U, 16U, and 15 classifications with no Bantam eligible players
 - At the beginning of the MSHSL Girls hockey season for Girls 19U and 16U classifications
- Effective for the 2020-21 Season only:
- September 30 for Youth 15 with Bantam-eligible players, and Youth 14U, Girls 14U and younger classifications
- D. Off-season teams shall not have more than 20% of players who reside outside of Minnesota. Non-Minnesota resident players must comply with the "Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol".
- E. Teams formed for post-season play, regardless of age classification, cannot be registered or sanctioned prior to completion of the MH regular season. Players shall not be contacted regarding participation on such 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. No off-season youth or girls team may recruit or solicit player or offer contract to players for the off-season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment of the off-season until 48 hours after the last game of the Minnesota Hockey State Tournament.

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. 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 house teams may play with both their house team and an association traveling team.
 2. Players on Minnesota Hockey Tier 1 (pre-post season) National Championship eligible teams may also be registered with a team which is not National Championship eligible.
 3. Special Events approved by the MH Board by a 2/3 majority. Such events must be on the Winter Meeting agenda at the latest, observing Bylaw provisions for putting items on the agenda, and are subject to requirements imposed by MH.
- C. **HOUSE LEAGUES:** Where a league exists within an association, a team representing the association 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 association in district tournament play is declared by 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, an 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 between player participation in one outside program versus another.

III. CITIZENSHIP AND AGE REGULATIONS

- A. Youth Junior Gold and younger, and Girls' 19 & Under and younger - Restricted to US citizens only, and limited to amateurs. The Classifications 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 in the Junior Gold, Midget and 16&Under Classifications 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:** Non-United States citizens that are legal residents of the United States as evidenced by such documentation as a non-expired Resident Alien card, a non-expired Visa of the Type/Class that allows for residency, or who are resident students from outside the United States, are eligible to compete.
- D. **AGE CLASSIFICATIONS:** Teams are to be formed observing the established age classifications, with players following the age range established for each classification.
1. Each association shall have a policy on whether players are allowed to "play up" to the next classification and conditions that apply. These policies must accommodate players with July/August birthdates so they can "peer up" and participate with their classmates if they desire. Players that "peer up" to participate with their classmates (June/July/August birthdates) shall be fully eligible, unless affected by another MH rule.
 2. Players approved to play down, per the USAH Registrar's policy, must participate at the lowest division the association offers.
 3. Players waived to another association are not allowed to play up unless approved by both association presidents and the cognizant District Director(s).
 4. Two-thirds of the players on teams at the Squirt level and above must be within the age classification in which the team is registered. Players who "peer up" as a result of a June/July/August birthday qualify for purposes of satisfying the two-thirds requirement and are not considered play ups. Exception: In case of low player numbers, players from multiple age groups may be combined on a single team, with the approval of the cognizant District Director and the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar.
- E. **AGE CERTIFICATION:** Government issued (state/county) birth certificate or passport must be presented for all players for inspection by the proper authority at the time a player registers (except as provided in para. I-A herein) unless the player is already on the age/citizenship verification list provided by USAH.

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 exclusive 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. 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. Indicate the reason for the request on the Waiver Form (school attendance, play on travel team, co-op team, etc.).
 - c. The releasing and receiving associations may add conditions or restrictions to the waiver. Conditions must be indicated on the Waiver Form and initialed by all parties executing the waiver.
 - d. The releasing and receiving association presidents must both sign Waiver Forms; then submit to the District (both Districts if two are involved). District Director approval is required on discretionary waivers, but is optional or as required by the District Director on mandatory waivers.
 - e. Non-Minnesota residents desiring to play for MH must follow the Inter-Affiliate Transfer Protocol.
 2. **DEFINITIONS:**

Residence - the legal dwelling of the player's parent(s) or court-appointed legal guardian(s) having custody of the player as substantiated by sufficient evidence to establish the location of the legal dwelling such as a valid driver's license, lease, property tax bill, utility bills or other persuasive evidence as to where the player lives. A pending relocation is not considered to be the player's residence until the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have completed the purchase or executed a lease and moved into the new residence. For foreign exchange students, the place the player resides while in the USA shall be considered the player's residence. Players moving after tryouts begin can be assigned to teams on a space-available basis.

Association of Residence - the association whose boundaries include the player's residence.

Association of School Attendance - the association whose boundaries include the location of the school the player attends.

Note: A player attending a public school that encompasses the boundaries of more than one youth hockey association has the following options:

 - Participate in his/her Association of Residence
 - If the player doesn't live within the boundaries of the associations the school feeds, the player may pick one of the associations as his/her Association of School Attendance on a one-time-choice basis.

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.

School - the primary educational provider of the student to achieve progress towards a high school diploma, the equivalent of a high school diploma, or any post high school degree. If the provider does not instruct the student at a physical facility, the location of the school shall be the student's primary residence. High school students taking post high school classes shall not be deemed to be attending school at the post high school provider's location.

Mandatory Waiver - neither the releasing nor the accepting association can decline to approve a school attendance waiver that meets the requirements as described below.

Discretionary Waiver - an agreement between associations to transfer a player for reasons as agreed to by the affected associations and District Director(s). Any of the approving parties have the authority to reject such a waiver.

3. A Mandatory Waiver shall be granted to any player in good standing, without conditions except as described below, 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 sites the "main" campus shall prevail unless agreed otherwise by the affected District Director(s).
 - b. 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.)
 - c. Players receiving a waiver based on school attendance shall register with their Association of School Attendance for as long as they continue to attend 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.
4. Players waived for non-school attendance reasons are subject to the receiving assn's policies in accordance with MH governing documents (may not be eligible for highest team, may be assigned to lowest team, etc.). They shall remain members of their Home Association, not the assn. they were waived to, with full rights and privileges accorded to all assn. members including voting rights.
5. **CHANGING SCHOOLS:**
 - a. Players not living in the attendance area of the school they attend shall elect one of the following:
 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any division in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at all except the highest division in their Association of School Attendance for one year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school, with full eligibility thereafter.
Exception: Players enrolling in 9th Grade for the first time are immediately eligible to compete at any division in their Association of School Attendance.
 - b. Players who have participated in their Association of School Attendance and desire to return to their Association of Residence without a related change of school shall elect one of the following:
 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any division with their Association of School Attendance for one year beginning with the first day that they notify in writing both associations of their intent to return to their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at all except the highest division in their Association of Residence for one (1) year beginning with the first day that they notify in writing both involved associations of their intent to return to their Association of Residence.
 - c. For purposes of this rule, a team that is eligible to participate in "AA" level playoffs at the end of the season will be considered a higher division than a team within the same association that is eligible to participate in "A" level playoffs.
 - d. Submit unusual circumstances to the District Director Committee for a decision.
6. 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 assn. can't participate with any other assn. without a waiver. Trying out in an assn. is considered participation. A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Refer to the Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.
7. Players denied a waiver or given a waiver with conditions by their Home Association may appeal in writing to the Home Association's District Director Committee. The Committee's decision is final.
8. District Director Committee: In cases indicated above where decisions are to be made by a District Director Committee, the District Director shall appoint two other persons beside themselves as the designated committee, one of which will be either the Maroon or Gold Vice President. This is to hear appeals pursuant to USAH Bylaw 10 E (1) (b).
9. Players having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must conform to this participation rule.

V. ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS

- A. Any team found to have an ineligible player that participates in any MH sanctioned game, exhibition game or controlled scrimmage will be suspended from MH District, Region and State Tournament play for the current season. The head coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player shall, as a minimum, be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season. These suspensions 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 player who participates with their high school hockey team after December 31st is not eligible for MH teams for 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 classification a player must have played 5 games before January 25th in order to be eligible for participation in District, Region and State playoffs.

VI. TEAM COMPOSITION

- A. Up to twenty players can be rostered on a team. A maximum of twenty players can dress for a game, with a maximum of eighteen of those players dressed as skaters.
Exception: If 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 District Director and the USAH Minnesota District Registrar. Such rosters will be approved only at the lowest competitive level the 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 state and region tournaments dress two goalies. If the team doesn't have two goalies, an Emergency Backup Goalie (E-BUG) may be chosen from a team in its league or association, and such an E-BUG may be chosen from the same or a lower but not higher playing division.
1. Failing the above, an E-BUG may be chosen from within the team's district or finally from the vicinity in which the tournament is being played.
 2. The E-BUG may play ONLY in case the regular goalie is unable to play, as determined by the tournament host District Director or Tournament Director.
 3. The E-BUG shall wear the light or dark jersey of the in-season team on which they are rostered.
 4. The E-BUG 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 as an E-BUG.
 5. The E-BUG must be properly registered on a MH team for the current season to be eligible to participate in a region 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 region and state MH play. The rule is not intended to permit teams to improve their goaltending by drafting an additional player.
 6. The releasing/receiving District Director(s) must approve, using the MH E-BUG Goalie Form.
- D. If a team carries only one goalie on its roster and that goalie is not available for region 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 division.
1. If a "replacement" goalie is not available from within a team's league or association, a "replacement" goalie may be chosen from among the teams in its district; or failing the above, from its region.
 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 at their original classification for the balance of the playing season whether or not they actually play as a "replacement" goalie.
 4. The "replacement" goalie must be properly registered on a MH team for the current season to be eligible to participate in a region 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 region and state MH play. The rule is not intended to permit teams to improve their goaltending by drafting an additional player.
 5. The releasing/receiving District Director(s) must approve, using the MH Replacement Goalie Form.

VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

- A. "Classifications" means Mite, Squirt, Peewee, 10&Under, 12&Under, Junior Gold, etc.
- B. "Divisions" 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 divisions as herein provided. Each District Director has the responsibility to maintain the integrity of each division within his/her district.
- "A" The highest competitive division – a development program designed to enhance team and individual skills. MH will provide district, region and state tournaments at this division. Every association has the right to enter teams in the A division.
- "B" The intermediate competitive division – also 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 division. Every association that has an A division team shall also have the right to enter teams in the B division.
- "C" The lowest competitive division – also serves as an entry level for new communities/programs to provide a competitive experience until they are ready to advance to a higher competitive division. There shall be no region or state tournaments at the C level. All associations that have teams in A or B divisions shall also be entitled to have teams at the C level.
- "House" Similar to "C", but limited to an in-house program (no participation outside of the association).
- "Recreational" Similar to "C", 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 playoff is permitted.
- D. **INTERLEVEL PLAY:** Interlevel play (games/exhibition games) is not permitted between classifications (Peewee vs Bantam, 15U vs 12U) or between divisions (A vs B, B vs C or A vs C teams), except for Jr Gold 16 vs Jr Gold B, and 15U A vs B. In special circumstances where interlevel play between divisions is appropriate, the affected District Director(s) must approve. Interlevel play is not permitted in MH sanctioned invitational or playoff tournaments, with the exception that Jr Gold 16 teams may participate in Jr Gold B invitational tournaments and 15UB teams may participate in 15UA invitational tournaments. Teams violating this provision may be declared ineligible to compete in any invitational tournaments and in MH district, region 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 division team from small cities or newly developed programs to play in a higher division league if there is no comparable division league available.
- E. **TEAM LEVELS:** The district director shall review and finalize the division of all teams. Associations shall submit the proposed division for each team to the district director prior to Nov. 15. The director's decision may be appealed to the Gold or Maroon Coordinator whose decision shall be final.
- F. **MITE HOCKEY:** MH strongly encourages skill development for all players. This is particularly critical at the Mite level so that players are provided with the foundation to enjoy and have success in the game.
1. To reduce expense and promote development rather than competition, Mite teams shall participate within their home association and district only. However, the District Director(s) may allow exceptions for convenience or to maintain continuity. The District Director's decision is final.

2. Mites are generally organized into levels based on age, skill and number of players. As a guideline, Mites should be divided into two levels: Mini-Mites (6 & Under) - the younger, beginner and less skilled players; and Mites (8 & Under) - the older, experienced, more skilled players.
 3. The focus for Mites is to teach/develop basic skills: skating, puck handling, shooting and passing. Cross-ice, half-ice and small area games are the standard of play to maximize ice utilization, increase puck touches and increase competition and fun. The American Development Model (ADM) and Minnesota Development Model (MDM) provide blueprints for player development.
 4. At the Mini-Mite (6 and Under) level – all games shall be played cross or half ice.
 5. At the Mite (8 and Under) level – the standard playing surface for all games is cross- or half-ice. Recognizing that associations may want to deviate from the standard, after December 31st up to four full-ice games are allowed with the District Director's approval. The Director's decision is final.
 6. Local hockey associations are in the best position to design programs so their players can develop and have fun. This should be based on the principles of the MDM and ADM, the number of players in their program, the skill of their players, the availability of ice and their coaching staff.
 7. Recognizing the need for flexibility and differences between associations, the District Director will monitor the standards outlined in #4 and #5 above. Abuses will result in sanctions against the association(s) at the sole discretion of the Director.
 8. MH permits cross/half ice Mite Tournaments; full ice Mite Tournaments aren't permitted. Guidelines for sanctioned Mite Cross/Half Ice Tournaments are in the Tournament Supplement. MH Mite teams can't participate in out-of-state tournaments, except cross/half ice as approved by the District Director.
 9. Jamborees may be conducted at the Mite level. A jamboree is defined as a low-key full participation event where players have an enjoyable learning experience in a non-competitive environment. Jamborees need not be registered as tournaments, but must follow the "Team Rest" provisions as provided under "Playing Rules". The format for a Jamboree shall be as follows:
 - a. The District Director must approve a proposed Jamboree at least thirty (30) days in advance.
 - b. All teams must be from one MH District, unless approved in writing by the MH Directors involved.
 - c. Information referring to the event must state "Jamboree", not tournament.
 - d. Team fees can cover only costs for ice time, officials, medical attendants and participant awards.
 - e. There can be no gate fee. A free-will donation box will be permitted.
 - f. USA Hockey certified officials are recommended.
 - g. No score may be kept, no winners, no losers, no standings. This will generally require a predetermined round-robin format to be followed.
 - h. No statistics may be kept, such as shots, saves, goals, assists, time of possession, etc.
 - i. Participation awards, if given, shall be the same for all participants. No team awards or trophies.
- G. **SQUIRT HOCKEY:** MH strongly encourages the skill development of all players especially at the entry levels. Therefore, the following is effective for the S squirt level.
1. Limit number of games (league/tournament/exhibition games excluding district playoffs) to a maximum of 35 per season.
 2. A three to one practice to game ratio shall be supported by all associations.
 3. A and B squirts must be allocated an equal quality and number of ice hours.
 4. Coaches should strive for approximate equal playing time among all players, excepting reduced time for disciplinary reasons.
 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 S 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 classifications. (NOTE: For time requirements for District, Region and State tournament play, see paragraph entitled "District, Region and State Tournaments", "Playing Time" hereinafter.)
- C. Districts, leagues and invitational tournaments may reduce the duration of minor penalties from 2 minutes to 1½ minutes for games with periods of 15 minutes or less.
 - a. The Fair Play penalty-minute thresholds by level per Playing Rule Q-3 are in effect regardless of whether 2 minute or 1½ minute minor penalties are assessed.
 - b. For the purposes of Fair Play "equivalency" minutes, minor penalties will be counted as 2 minutes per playing rule Q-4, regardless of whether 2 minute or 1½ minute minor penalties are assessed.
 - c. The standard minor penalty duration of 2 minutes shall be used at MH Region/State Tournaments, and in all District Tournaments that determine teams progressing to Region/State Tournaments.
- D. No jewelry except for religious/medical needs. Tape medals to the body under the uniform so not visible. Penalty: first offense, warning. Returning to the game without correction: Game Misconduct.
- E. The penalty for fighting will be a major penalty and a three-game misconduct penalty. For a second violation the player will be suspended from all participation for the remainder of the season.
- F. At the Junior Gold and 16 & Under classifications, a Game Ejection may be called on any player/team official. A player/team official receiving this penalty will be removed only from the game being played.
- G. At the Junior Gold and 16 & Under classification, a Game Ejection shall be automatically assessed when a player receives a third penalty during a single game. The player shall immediately be removed from the ice and another player shall serve the penalty. 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 hrs for league games. The protesting party must provide substantiating evidence. If verified, the subject game will be forfeited.
- H. Only the players (maximum 20) and coaches (maximum 4) listed on the official USAH Roster or replacement coaches approved by the district director are allowed to be on the bench during MH sanctioned competition. Replacement coaches must be currently registered and rostered on a MH team and can use their current team roster for purposes of credential verification. In order to participate in team activities, all coaches (head and assistant) must be certified at the proper Coaching Education Program (CEP) level according to USAH requirements. Coaches of pre-season High School teams must be CEP certified at the proper level when the team is registered or no later than two weeks before the end of their season. Managers are not allowed on the bench. All Players on the bench, including players not dressed to play, must wear a helmet/face mask and team jersey.
- I. Players or team officials suspended because 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/players shall not participate in more than two 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 (league, tournament, exhibition, etc.) and/or practices. There shall be a minimum of two hours between on-ice activities on the same day and ten 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. Exceptions:
1. The rest-time for Mites can be reduced to 1.25 hours for on-ice activities of 60 minutes or less. For half/cross-ice activities of 45 minutes or less, up to four on-ice team activities can occur in a day, with a minimum of 45 minutes rest between activities.
 2. Teams may schedule practices before or after games, without the two hours of rest, at the discretion of the coach and assn.
- K. **CONCUSSIONS:** (refer to Minnesota Statute 121A.37)
1. MH must make concussion information accessible to all coaches, officials, players and parents/ guardians, including the effects and risks of continuing to play after receiving a concussion. This includes the nature and risks of concussions associated with athletic activity, concussion symptoms, the need for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a player is suspected or observed to have received a concussion, and the need for concussed players to follow proper medical direction before returning to play. All coaches and officials must receive initial training regarding concussions, and participate in refresher training every two years thereafter. Each coach shall complete and provide a coach concussion acknowledgement form to the association prior to participating in any team activities.
 2. Coaches, officials and/or medical attendants shall and are authorized to remove a player from participating if the player exhibits concussion signs, symptoms or behaviors, or is suspected of sustaining a concussion. A player removed from participation for this reason may not again participate until they no longer exhibit concussion signs, symptoms or behaviors and a "health care provider" evaluates the player and gives the player written permission to again participate, using MH's Return To Play Form. "Health care provider" means a third-party health care professional who is registered, licensed, certified or otherwise statutorily authorized by the state to provide medical treatment, and is practicing within their training and experience to evaluate and manage pediatric concussions. No coach, team doctor, team trainer, parent, guardian or relative can execute the Return To Play Form as a health care provider.
 3. A head coach or coach in charge of any team activity who has knowledge of a player sustaining a concussion or exhibiting concussion type symptoms shall complete a Minnesota Hockey Concussion Reporting and Return to Play form relating to the injury and ensure that the form is delivered to the team manager within 48 hours of receipt of information that a player sustained a concussion or exhibited concussion type symptoms. The team manager shall provide a copy of the report to the player's parent or legal guardian, District Director and association president or other delegated representative tasked with monitoring reports under this rule. Until the completed Return to Play portion of the form is received by the team manager or coach, the coach and team manager shall ensure that the player does not participate in any team physical activities. A completed Return to Play form shall be kept by the team manager during the season and a copy provided to the USA Hockey Minnesota District Risk Manager and association president or delegated representative at the end of the year.
 4. The penalty for a knowing violation of this rule by a coach who fails to report a concussion or symptoms of a concussion, fails to timely complete and return a Minnesota Hockey Concussion Reporting and Return to Play form, or allows a player removed from team activities as a result of a concussion or who exhibited concussion type symptoms to participate in team physical activities prior to receipt of a signed medical clearance shall be as follows: for a first violation the coach shall be suspended for the next two games and any events between the two games; for a second violation the coach shall be suspended for two weeks; for a third violation the coach shall be suspended for a full calendar year.
- L. 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.
- M. A blaze orange "Stop Patch" must be displayed in the upper center on the back of all players' jerseys in all Youth and Girl's classifications, except Mites and Mini Mites. This octagonal patch must be a minimum of 3" high/wide and may be sewn or silk-screened on the jerseys.
- N. **EXHIBITION GAMES & 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, all applicable rules of USAH and MH, including those pertaining to rest periods and the use of certified officials, must be followed. 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.
- O. All coaches involved in on-ice activities, practices and scrimmages must 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 a mandatory 30 day suspension.
- P. **SCORESHEETS:** A scoresheet shall be used for all games; league, tournament and exhibition.
 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.
- Q. **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 play 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 District Directors Committee prior to the start of the league.
 2. Each team will earn their Fair Play point if none of the following occurs:
 - 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).
 - e. A player on the team receives a game misconduct under USAH Rule 601 e2/e3 for obscene gesture or offensive/hateful/discriminatory language.
 3. Fair Play total "equivalent" penalty minute criteria. (Criteria based on 1 hour games for Peewee/12&Under and below and 1½ hour games for Bantam/15&Under and up.)

a. Squirf..... 10 minutes	f. Girls 10&Under 8 minutes
b. Pee Wee 12 minutes	g. Girls 12&Under 10 minutes
c. Bantam 14 minutes	h. Girls 14&Under and 15&Under 12 minutes
d. Jr. Gold 16 16 minutes	i. Girls 16&Under 14 minutes
e. Jr. Gold..... 16 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..... 2 Minutes	e. Match 5 Minutes
b. Major 5 Minutes	f. Minor plus Misconduct (2 & 10)..... 12 Minutes
c. Misconduct..... 10 Minutes	g. Misconduct for no mouth guard..... 2 Minutes
d. Game Misconduct..... 10 Minutes	h. Penalty Shot..... Equivalent minutes to penalty assessed

Note – See special provisions in paragraph C above.
 5. If two or more teams are tied in final standings, the following process shall be used to determine position in the standings. If 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 using the same process, except when one formula establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team(s) is placed, the tie-breaking process shall be restarted at formula 5.a for the remaining tied teams.
 - a. Total points from 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. Forfeits: A team initiating a forfeit does not receive a 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.

R. 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 of teams from two or more MH districts can be formed with the consent of the participating teams' District Directors. Playing rules for such leagues shall be those of the district of the home team, and administrative rules shall be those of the district administering the league, unless agreed otherwise by the involved District Directors.
- 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 Region Vice President. The Board may establish stipulations under which non-district leagues can be formed.
- 5. All leagues; intra-district, inter-district or otherwise; must follow USAH and MH rules and regulations.
- 6. Only teams participating in leagues under district jurisdiction are eligible for MH post season play.

S. COLD WEATHER POLICY:

It is required that all Minnesota Hockey Districts have a written policy regarding players playing and practicing at outside rinks. Policies should indicate the minimum temperature, including wind chill, that is safe for players to participate outside. Policies should account for the opportunity for participants to warm up should they become cold. No player should be required to remain outside in extreme weather if they indicate they are uncomfortable. Each District's policy shall be provided to the Minnesota Hockey Player Safety Coordinator prior to the season for review and approval and anytime thereafter when a change in the policy is adopted.

T. PROHIBITION ON ALTERING UNIFORMS: Any uniform shall not contain any statement, logo, advertisement or other alteration other than information, names, logos or sponsor information approved by MH or the applicable affiliate. Any political statement, advertisement for political candidate or legislative law shall be prohibited on any MH Youth or Girls uniform.

IX. PROTESTS

No protests relating to the playing of the game are 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 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. If the officials fail to assess an in-game suspension to a player who should have received one under USAH or MH rules, the player is not considered an ineligible player.

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 are the responsibility of and at the expense of the districts, and shall comply with MH Rules and Regulations. Special district league rules or penalties shall not apply to or carry over to region tournaments. District representatives to region tournaments must be determined by the Sunday prior to the start of Regions.
- 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 shall set tournament entry and spectator fees on an annual basis. The 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 using a championship single elimination format with a consolation division unless approved otherwise by the Tournaments Committee. 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. In the event that a team has only one set of jerseys available, this shall be communicated to the

- tournament director not less than 24 hours before the start of the tournament. The tournament director will advise the opposing teams to wear a contrasting color (the designation of Home and Away teams would be unaffected).
- 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 region 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 minute 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 in district, region and state tournaments whenever a goal differential of six 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 tournaments, 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. Do not post penalties on the scoreboard unless they can be entered without stopping the clock.
- J. **BREAKING OF TIES:**
1. For Region and State Tournament games, the following overtime format shall be used. The teams shall change goals after the third period and stay that way through all overtime periods.
 - 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.
 - d. Refer to paragraph entitled "Ice Resurfacing" herein for additional resurfacing requirements.
 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.
 2. 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. Subtract goals scored against from goals scored (position by greatest surplus)
 3. Divide goals scored by the goals scored against (position by 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 as follows: 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 STARS:** No all-star team may be selected or awards given individual players in MH District, Region and State tournaments.
- L. **MEDICAL ATTENTION:** A Certified Athletic Trainer, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), paramedic or medical or osteopathic physician shall be on site for each one or two games in progress, except such medical attention shall not be required for Mite games. This group shall include licensed health care professionals, Certified Athletic Trainers, Emergency Medical Technologists (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). Registered Nurses currently certified for AFA/CPR/BLS are included. The retained medical personnel have the final say on whether an injured player can return to the game. Refer to the paragraph entitled "Concussions" for additional information.
- M. **STATE TOURNAMENT SITE ROTATION:**
1. The Pee wee and Bantam State Tournaments will rotate annually from Gold to Maroon. In 2014, Pee wees will be in the Gold division; Bantams will be in the Maroon division; in 2015, Pee wees will be in the Maroon division; Bantams will be in the Gold division and so forth.
 2. The Junior Gold A State Tournament will rotate four years in the Maroon division and one year in the Gold division starting with the 2012 tournament (2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 in the Maroon and 2016 in the Gold and so forth). The number of teams seeded to the tournament will be based on the total percentage of teams; however, a minimum of two Gold teams will be seeded when Gold is host.
- N. **LOCATION/FORMAT/GAME SCHEDULE:** The location (community and arena) of each region and state tournament must be submitted by the hosting District Director or the cognizant Divisional Vice President to the Tournaments Committee Chair on or before the MH Summer Meeting. Schedules must be arranged so that no team playing their second game of the day is competing against a team playing their first game of the day. Teams in Region/State games shall have at least three hours rest between games on the same day. The tournament formats, including tournament dates and game times must be submitted to the Tournaments Committee Chair no later than December 31 in the year preceding the tournament. If the above requirements are not met, the Tournaments Committee Chair 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 days and the Tournaments Committee Chair 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.

- O. **MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS:** The following minimum requirements shall apply to facilities used for MH Region and State Tournaments. Any exceptions to these requirements must be requested in writing to the Tournaments Committee Chair 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.
 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 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. Players' bench and penalty box doors should be positioned so that players entering the ice surface are not placed offsides.
 7. 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.
 8. All lines on the ice (red/blue/goal lines, goal crease, face-off circles) are clearly visible and in accordance with USAH rules.
 9. A public address system in the arena is required.
 10. A full service concession stand is recommended. Miscellaneous supplies such as mouthguards, tape, sticks, and skate laces should be available for sale, as well as skate sharpening service.
- P. **SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Only in cases of emergency should the announced game schedule be changed. Game schedules for region and state tournaments will not be changed without prior approval of the Tournaments Committee Chair. 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.
- Q. **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 to their playing of any games in accordance with the Team Credentials Package section in the Handbook. A meeting with each coach and manager of the participating teams should be held before their first game. For MH District, Region and State tournaments, the Coaching Education Program certification requirements shall be checked for all coaches prior to the first game of the tournament.
- R. **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.
- S. **ICE SURFACING:** In region 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 2nd overtime period and at the end of every three overtime periods there-after. The tournament director may use discretion as to whether resurfacing is needed after an overtime period before the beginning of the next scheduled game. District tournaments may reduce resurfacing requirements to between every two periods of play.
- T. **AWARDS:** MH Districts are responsible for awards for district tournaments. MH will provide appropriate team/individual awards for region and state tournaments.
- U. **TOURNAMENT OUTLINE:** Region tournament information 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 the Region tournament hosts. Give this info to advancing teams as soon as they are determined.
- V. **REPORTING RESULTS:** The following must be reported to the MH staff during each MH District, Region or State tournament:
1. For Districts, report the names of teams advancing to the next tournament. (Also report to the host for the next tournament.)
 2. For Regions, report the participants and scores of all the games immediately following the conclusion of each game.
 3. For State, enter game scores and statistics for each game on the online scoring platform determined by MH.

XI. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

- A. All invitational tournaments involving 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. In special circumstances, the involved District Directors can approve participation by neighboring associations outside of the District. Special events must follow all rules for sanctioning invitational tournaments except that there is no sanction fee and these events are not subject to the February 1st 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. If more than one ice sheet is available at an arena complex, no invitational tournament may be held at that arena complex on the same weekend that a MH Region or State Tournament is being held. If there is a conflict in dates, Invitational sponsors agree to refund entry fees of all teams which qualify for district, region or state MH tournaments.
 4. Officials must be USAH registered, and USAH playing rules and age classifications as modified by MH must be used.
 5. MH Youth Rules and Regulations paragraphs entitled "Credentialed" and "Medical Attention" in the District, Region and State Tournaments section apply to all invitational tournaments.
 6. The MH fee for a MH Affiliate to sanction an invitational tournament is \$100 for each division and classification (e.g. - for a tournament with Squirt A, Peewee A, and Peewee B levels, the sanction fee is \$300). The fee for non-MH-Affiliates is listed on the inside front cover of the Handbook.
 7. If team(s) from outside of MH participate, a USAH invitational tournament sanction fee of \$250 is also required. All teams must be registered with USA Hockey or another IIHF Federation (i.e. Canada). Note that the USA Hockey fee is per tournament, not per division/classification.
 8. The following items must be submitted by a 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 MH Tournaments Committee Chair for final approval.
 9. Applications to host invitational tournaments must be received by the District Director or the district tournament coordinator no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the first day of the tournament. Applications will not be accepted after February 1.
 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 ten 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 Tournaments Committee Chair.
 11. Modifications to approved applications (changes in tournament rules, ice times, bracketing, teams participating) must be submitted for review and approval by the MH Tournaments Committee Chair at least ten 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. Invitational Tournament hosts shall respond within ten business days of the receipt of any application and inform the applicant whether the application is accepted, incomplete, declined or wait listed. Responses shall include the following:
 - a. If incomplete, identify the reason it is deemed incomplete and the date by which any deficiencies are to be corrected.
 - b. If wait listed, the date a final decision will be made to accept or decline the application. If wait listed the applicant shall be allowed to withdraw the application any time before acceptance and receive a full refund.
 - c. If declined, refund of all tournament fees.
 Acceptance of an application will be deemed a final decision; the host will not be permitted to decline a previously accepted application unless the tournament is cancelled. Penalties for violating this rule, such as excluding the host team, will be determined by the District Director.
 14. In the event of a tournament cancellation, notify the District Director or Tournament Coordinator for the district in writing no less than ten days before the start date of the tournament. USAH fees and late fees will not be returned. The host may request a refund of MH tournament fees from the MH Tournaments Committee Chair, in writing, no later than 30 days after the start date of the tournament.
 15. Hosting unsanctioned tournaments or violating MH/USAH tournament rules will be cause for penalty to the host 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. Monetary fines may also be assessed.
 - 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. Monetary fines may also be assessed.
 - c. In the event that the violation is considered a minor or inadvertent error, a penalty may be reduced at the discretion of the Tournaments Committee Chair and the cognizant District Director.
 - d. Penalized Associations may not have another association host tournaments at their sites.
 Evaluation of circumstances and assessment of penalties shall be the joint responsibility of the District Director and the Tournaments Committee Chair. The Tournaments Committee shall decide disputes regarding penalties to be assessed. Committee decisions shall be considered a "decision of MH". (Bylaws Article 7, Board of Directors, District Directors Duties)

16. Teams participating in unsanctioned tournaments will be subject to disciplinary action by the District for the balance of that season and the following season, up to and including suspension from MH activities.
17. All Tournaments hosted and sanctioned by off-season affiliates and non-affiliates shall pay a deposit of \$5,000, per level, at the time of the application for the tournament. The fee shall be forfeited if any rules violation occurs in connection with the conduct of the tournament. The host of the tournament shall provide a profit and loss statement with respect to the conduct of the tournament and shall receive a return of the deposit upon receipt of the profit and loss statement and verification that no rules violations occurred in connection with the tournament.
- D. **EXEMPT EVENTS:** Sanction Applications and sanction fees are not required for the following events:
1. MN Hockey District, Region, and State Tournaments.
 2. Events involving teams from a single MN Hockey District, except the involved District Directors can approve participation by neighboring associations outside of the District.
- Provide rules and bracketing for either of the above events to the Tournaments Committee Chair or the District Director.
3. Special Events involving up to 6 teams are allowed, subject to following criteria:
- a) All teams must be MH-registered teams. No non-MH teams except with District Director approval.
 - b) Play among teams is PREDETERMINED. All teams will be aware of who they will be playing and when, prior to first game.
 - c) Subsequent play between teams is not determined by results of prior games.
 - d) No team event points are accumulated as a result of games.
 - e) No awards for teams or individual players.
 - f) All rules regarding team rest and number of on-ice events will be followed
 - g) Participating teams will provide necessary volunteers to assist with the game. Host association may not charge for off-ice officials unless that is their common practice.
 - h) No gate entry fees may be assessed to participating teams or spectators.
 - i) All game costs will be divided equally among teams playing.
 - j) Host association may charge a nominal administrative fee, not exceeding \$50 per team. This type of event cannot be conducted as a fundraising event.
 - k) The Host Association is responsible for:
 - o Keeping complete financial and game format records of the event.
 - o Complete accountability to the cognizant District Director upon request.
 - o Adherence to the rules set forth above. Violations could result in sanctions including not being allowed to play in post-season at the level of the event.
- No pre-approval is required to conduct "Special Events". However, complete financial and game format records must be provided to the Tournaments Committee Chair or cognizant District Director on request.
- E. Interstate, National and International tournaments, refer to the MH By-Law Article entitled "Registration" and the Article Entitled "International Competition".
- F. Schedule Invitational Tournaments to minimize the time a player is away from school. When preparing invitational tournament schedules, 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 miles, one way, from the tournament site shall be required to play a game that starts prior to 6:00 PM on a school day, unless the team indicates their willingness to do so, in writing, on their invitational tournament entry form (e-mail acceptable), and the host team plays in the same or an earlier game on the same day.
 3. If 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.
 4. Minnesota Hockey affiliates who authorize others within their affiliate to conduct sanctioned tournaments shall be responsible for compliance with this rule.
 5. 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. Violations could also result in monetary fines to the Association(s).

XII. USAH National Championship Eligibility Tier I, Tier II and High School Classifications

The Tier I and Tier II designations are restricted to classifications (Youth 14U, 15, 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U, 19U) for which USA Hockey conducts National Championships. The High School classification is restricted to teams that comply with the requirements outlined in the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations.

Players on Tier I, Tier II and High School National Tournament bound teams must be Minnesota residents (see "Participation Rule").

Tier I, Tier II and High School National Championship bound teams must comply with the eligibility requirements established in the USA Hockey National Championship Guidebook and USA Hockey Rules and Regulations.

A. Tier I

1. **Purpose:** Provide Minnesota players the opportunity to develop, compete at the highest level and showcase their skills while enhancing and strengthening Minnesota's community-based youth/girls and high school structure. After the Fall pre-season, participants will be allowed to play for their community association or high school team and then come back together on completion of that season to participate in a USA National Championship.

2. **Leagues:** Tier I Leagues shall be administered by the MH High Performance (HP) Program or affiliate leagues as approved by the MH Board of Directors. League operations include player and coach selection, financial operations, scheduling and dispute resolution. The Tier I Committee Chair with the support of Hockey Operations shall annually provide recommendations for any such affiliate leagues at the MH Spring meeting for MH Board of Directors approval. The Tier I Committee shall have responsibility for all matters pertaining to the Tier I Leagues as authorized by the MH Board of Directors.

3. Tier I Season	<u>Pre-season</u>	<u>Post-season</u>
Youth 14U/15Only	August 1 - October 15	MH State Tournament thru USAH Nationals
Girls 14U	August 1 - October 15	MH State Tournament thru USAH Nationals
Youth 16U/18U	August 1 - start of Boys High School season	MSHSL Boys State Tournament thru USAH Nationals
Girls 16U/19U	August 1 - start of Girls High School season	MSHSL Girls State Tournament thru USAH Nationals

4. **Maximum Number of Tier I Teams**

Youth 14U, 15 Only, 16U & 18 U - 8 teams each classification Girls 16U - 7 teams
Girls 14U - 8 teams Girls 19U - 5 teams

5. **Tier I Tryouts:** Tryouts must be announced publicly at least 30 days in advance of tryouts, providing details of place and time. Personal invitations to tryouts are permissible with a maximum of 80% of tryout participants being by invitation. Tryouts shall not be scheduled before 48 hours after the last Youth/Girls National Championship Game.

6. **Minnesota District Tier 1 Playoffs:** The Tier 1 Committee Chair in cooperation with the USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors is responsible for conducting and establishing the playoff formats. The Youth 14U/15 and Girls 14U Playoffs will be completed before October 15, Girls 16U/19U before the beginning of the MSHSL Girls hockey season and the Youth 16U/18U before the beginning of the MSHSL Boys hockey season.

Note: Shattuck St Mary's teams, as a legacy program, will be classified as Tier I National Championship eligible and participate in the MN District Playoff. SSM players are exempt from the MN residency requirement for Tier I.

B. Tier II

1. **Applications:** MH HP Program, association and geographically defined affiliates teams shall make application for Tier II status to the Minnesota Hockey VP Hockey Operations by June 1. Tier II certification for Tier II National Championship eligibility shall be subject to approval by the Minnesota Hockey Board of Directors at the Summer BOD meeting.

2. **Tier II State Playoffs:** The Minnesota Tournament Committee Chair in cooperation with the USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors are responsible for conducting and establishing the State Tier II playoff format. The scheduling and format will be dependent on the applications for Tier II classification that are approved.

C. High School

1. **Eligibility:** Affiliates with High School teams as defined in USAH Rules and Regulations (Pure and Combined) desiring eligibility to participate in the USAH National High School Championship must declare such to the MH Vice President Hockey Operations by June 1. Eligibility of High School National Championship bound teams will be subject to Board of Directors approval at the Summer BOD meeting.

2. **High School State Playoffs:** The Minnesota Tournament Committee Chair in cooperation with the USAH Minnesota District Directors are responsible for conducting and establishing the State High School playoff format. The scheduling and format will be dependent on the applications for High School National Championship bound teams that are approved.

XIII. ON-ICE OFFICIALS

A. The four-official (2 referees, 2 linesmen), three-official (1 referee; 2 linesmen) or two-official systems will be used.

1. The three- or four-official system is mandatory for all Jr. Gold A, B and 16 Playoffs, Region and State Tournament games.
2. The three-official system is the minimum for all Bantam AA/A, Girls 15&Under A and Women's 19 & Under Playoffs, Region and State Tournament games.
3. The three-official system is mandatory for all Bantam B, Peewee AA/A and Girls 12&Under A State Tournament games. The three-official system is recommended for Bantam B, Peewee AA/A and Girls 12&Under A Playoffs and Region games.
4. The two-official system will be used for all Peewee B, Girls 15&Under B, Girls 12&Under B and Sr. Women Playoffs, Region and State Tournament games.
5. 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.
6. A minimum of two officials is required for all District, Region and State Tournament games.

B. All officials must be registered with USAH and their respective affiliate to officiate MH sanctioned games.

C. USAH Level 3 or 4 officials must be used at MH District/Region/State tournaments. Level 2 officials may be used at the "B" level with approval of the District Director and the 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 officials must complete registration by Dec. 31.

XIV. 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) E-Cigarettes, (4) controlled substances defined by law as drugs (including marijuana), and (5) 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 use by the player's physician.

A. PENALTIES:

1. After confirmation of a first violation, the player shall be suspended for the next two games or two weeks, whichever is greater.
2. After confirmation of a second violation, the player shall be suspended for the next six consecutive games.
3. After confirmation of a third or subsequent violation, the player shall be suspended for the next twelve consecutive games.

4. In (2) and (3) above, no exception is permitted for a player who participates in a treatment program.
 5. 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 (not practice games or scrimmages). Associations or individual teams may adopt a more prohibitive rule and/or more severe penalties for violation of this Rule.

XV. CONDUCT

- A. All players, coaches and fans must maintain an environment that encourages mutual respect and promotes respectful and congenial relationships between players, coaches and fans and that is free from all forms of harassment by anyone.
1. All hockey players that are involved in an incident involving language, a gesture or conduct that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature ("Occurrence") must inform their coaches as soon as reasonably possible after such an Occurrence, whether it is on or off the ice.
 2. If a player notifies the coach of an Occurrence during a game, the coach must communicate the Occurrence to the officials as soon as is reasonably possible.
 3. Upon notification, the official must inform the opposing team and coaches of the report of the Occurrence and warn them that such behavior will result in a Match penalty against each responsible involved player if observed by an official.
 4. If at any time, with or without notification, an official observes an Occurrence, a Match penalty must be assessed against each offending player.
 5. The officials must note a reported or observed Occurrence on the game scoresheet upon completion of the game, and a copy of the scoresheet shall be provided to the District Director of each offending player's team. For observed Occurrences, a Game Report must be filed.
 6. The District Director will maintain the scoresheet as a record of the Occurrence and may conduct any additional investigation and impose any additional discipline the District Director deems necessary.
- B. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Coaches should advise their parents and fans of the conduct rules.
- C. If spectator conduct becomes so abusive that, in the official's opinion, it is distracting from the game or inciting the players, the referee(s) will stop play and ask the coach(es) to control their spectators, and/or ask the coach(es) to request specified individuals to leave the arena.
- D. Use of artificial noise makers and devices such as laser pointers that could be detrimental to the game are considered abusive conduct and are prohibited at all games. Use of any such device that could be detrimental to the players or the conduct of the game, is considered abusive conduct and may be reported to local law enforcement.
- E. During MH playoffs or invitational tournaments, the District Director, designated district personnel or the tournament director shall have the authority to take actions as necessary to control spectator conduct.
- F. Any spectator removed under Para. C, D or E above will incur a mandatory minimum 3-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body.
- G. Failure of a coach to cooperate with a referee's request within two minutes will result in a bench minor penalty and a warning from the referee that after an additional two 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.
- H. Spectators standing by the boards behind the goalkeeper shall not 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.
- I. MH acknowledges the Locker Room Monitoring Policy as established by USA Hockey. Monitors must be 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 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 MH Bylaw Article 6. If warranted, up to a one-year suspension penalty may be levied upon the violators.
- J. Coaches, managers, minor officials, or players exuding the scent of alcohol, or while using any tobacco products (including chewing tobacco) or while using E-Cigarettes, shall not be allowed within the players bench area or the penalty box area.
- K. Coaches/players/managers/spectators may not enter the Referee's room without an invitation before, during or after a game. The following actions will take place for violation of this rule:
1. For a coach or player - assess a game misconduct penalty; report the incident for possible add'l league action or suspension.
 2. For a manager or spectator (fan) - the Referee(s) will report the circumstances to the Supervisor of Officials who will notify the District Director. A mandatory hearing will be held with the team coach and a representative of their association's governing board to discuss possible disciplinary action.
- L. Confidentiality of Player Communications: Affiliates, coaches and team officials shall treat personal information regarding a player as confidential and disclose such information only to those with a need to know and as necessary to conduct the team or as required by law.

End of Youth Rules and Regulations