

Rules Committee Report 2018 Spring Meeting

rev. 2 3/19/18



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Monday, Mar 12, 2018.

Several items were postponed for future consideration, including:

- Adding MH Discipline Hearing Panels to the exceptions that cannot be appealed to the Board of Directors
- Allowing the Board of Directors to establish criteria for accepting new Affiliates
- Making some MH rules not waivable by Board approval or requiring unanimous vote
- Tightening requirements for teams with multiple age classifications

Modifications to the Handbook inside front cover, Bylaws, Youth Rules and the Team Credentials requirements are proposed as shown below.

Change to Handbook Inside Front Cover

*H1. At the recent Winter Meeting, we made some changes to the deadline for roster changes (Handbook pg. 2). We intended to loosen the requirements, but it could be interpreted that the District Director had to approve *any* change after Dec. 31st. For clarity, the following update is proposed. This is not technically a rule change, but it should still be approved by the Board.*

Team Rosters

~~All teams except Adult ... Deadline Date - December 31~~

Player rosters must be approved prior to the first league or tournament game.

~~No roster changes after Dec. 31st to teams eligible for State Tournaments, with exceptions as approved by the District Director.~~

Classifications that have a state tournament – no changes after December 31 unless approved by the District Director.

Classifications that do not have a state tournament – no deadline.

Bylaws Changes

B1. At the Winter Meeting the Board decided to stop imposing our invitational tournament restrictions on teams attending out-of-state tournaments. The Rules Committee was asked to consider striking the first sentence in Bylaw Article 5.

ARTICLE 5 - REGISTRATION

~~F. MH teams must have permission from their district director to compete in invitational tournaments held outside of MN.~~ To compete in USAH National Tournaments, teams must be certified by MH and the USAH Minnesota District Registrar. Travel permits are required for all games or tournaments held outside of the US – contact the USAH Minnesota District Registrar for details. Teams not receiving permission may be subject to suspension.

B2. To allow for proper "vetting", it is proposed that new or changed affiliate agreements must be distributed to the board 30 days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered.

ARTICLE 11 - AMENDING/ADOPTING GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

1. Governing Documents are defined as the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Affiliate Agreement(s), Code of Conduct, and the Sexual Abuse and Physical Screening Policy, Whistleblowers Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy, and may be amended/adopted at any meeting of the Board of Directors.
2. Anyone wishing to adopt or amend a Governing Document must place the item on the agenda of the Board of Directors meeting by notifying the Secretary in writing, not later than 30 days prior to the meeting. The specific wording of the proposed changes must be provided, in writing, to the Secretary not later than 21 days prior to the meeting. Items submitted without the specific, written proposal will not be accepted. The proposed changes must be distributed to the members of the Board of Directors at least 10 days prior to the meeting at which they are presented for adoption. Any additional Governing Document items that are to receive consideration of the Board of Directors require a two-thirds consent of the voting Board Members in order to be placed on the agenda.
- [B2] 3. **New Affiliate Agreements or changes to existing Affiliate Agreements, along with sufficient supporting documentation, must be distributed to the Board 30 days prior to the meeting at which they will be considered for approval.**

B3. We need to add sexual orientation to the list of items on which we will not discriminate.

ARTICLE 13 - ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- [B3] It is the policy of MH to provide an equal opportunity to all amateur athletes, coaches and officials to participate in competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, **sexual orientation**, handicap or national origin. MH will take all the necessary steps to comply with this policy.

B4. Need to add verbiage that specifies the authority upon which District Boards can make rules.

ARTICLE 17 – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. The District Director shall ensure that district administrative matters are handled. The Director may perform such duties personally, assign them to an assistant(s), or delegate them to an advisory group/board. Regardless of how they are performed, the Director retains responsibility and authority for these duties.
2. Districts may organize as 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, shall account for all funds collected by the District or its programs, and shall annually (prior to August 31) submit to the Treasurer a complete financial report of all operations under the District's control. MN Hockey, at its discretion, can request additional verification of all District financial matters, subject to the terms of MH Financial Management Policies.
- [B4] 3. ~~District Boards, if they exist, shall operate as an adjunct part of MH. Such boards are critical to the operation of the district and are entrusted to handle many of the administrative details of running a district. However, such boards are inherently advisory in nature as it would relate to hockey operations in the District. The final authority lies with the Director.~~
3. **District Boards:**
 - **Shall operate as an adjunct part of MH.**
 - **Are critical to the operation of the district and are entrusted to handle many of the administrative details of running a district.**
 - **Are inherently advisory in nature as it would relate to hockey operations in the District.**
 - **Have the authority to make District Rules, as authorized by the District Director.**
4. For Districts which have a District Board, each member association shall elect a representative. Refer to Affiliate Agreement...

Youth Rules Changes

R1. For Squirts, limit the number of games to 30 (not game days) and require equal playing time.

VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

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.

- [R1]
1. Limit number of game ~~s~~ days (league/tournament/exhibition games) to a maximum of ~~35~~ 30 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 to make playing time for all players approximately equal, 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.

R2. Increase the time for concussion training from annual to every two years, and provide restrictions on who can sign off on a Return To Play Form.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

K. Concussions (refer to Minnesota Statute 121A.37)

- [R2]
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 ~~year~~ 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.**

R3. Add the four-official system to the list of recognized officiating systems.

XII. ON-ICE OFFICIALS

- [R3]
- A. The **four-official (two referees, two linesmen)**, three-official system (one referee, two linesmen) or the two-official system will be used.
 - ~~1. The three official system is mandatory for all Jr. Gold A&B, Jr. Gold 16, Bantam AA/A, Girls 15&Under A and Women's 19 & Under Playoffs, Region and State Tournament games.~~
 - 1. The three- or four-official system is mandatory for all Jr. Gold A&B and Jr. Gold 16 Playoffs, Region and State Tournament games.** The three-official system is mandatory for all Bantam AA/A, Girls 15&Under A and Women's 19 & Under Playoffs, Region and State Tournament games.

R4. *There have been requests to relax the conditions for Special Events to allow neighboring associations outside of the District to participate with District Director approval.*

XI. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

[R4]

- A. All invitational tournaments that involve 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 District Director 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...
- 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 District Director can approve participation by neighboring associations outside of the District.**
The rules and bracketing to be used for either of the above events must be provided 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 teams from outside MH **except with District Director approval.**

Team Credentials Package

TC1. *It has been requested that we remove the requirement to review waivers as part of the check-in process for District, Region and State Tournaments. This is not technically a rule change, but it should still be approved by the Board.*

Team Credentials Package

Each team participating in invitational, district, region or state tournaments must present the following credentials package to the tournament Credentials Committee prior to participating in the tournament. Any team that does not have a properly completed credentials package will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

Minnesota District Teams

[TC1]

- Rosters generated by the Online Registration Program can be supplied by a mobile device. Some arenas may be in a "dead zone" to receive mobile connections or do not have wireless internet so a paper copy of the roster may be required. No signatures are required. Roster approval will be a computer generated message on the roster that will say (USA HOCKEY APPROVED CERTIFIED ROSTER 1T).
- Birth certificates issued by a governmental body (not hospital certificates or baptismal certificates) or passports for rostered players are not required as long as the official roster has been approved by the Registrar or the cognizant Associate Registrar and the roster indicates that all birth certificates have been verified.
- ~~Waivers for any player whose residence is outside of the team Affiliate's boundary. Waivers apply only to MH teams. Invitational Tournaments are not required to check waivers.~~
- An approval letter from the Minnesota District Registrar for...

[End of Rules Committee Report]