

Rules Committee Report 2021 Summer Meeting



The Minnesota Hockey Rules Committee met through email communications to discuss the agenda items in this report for the 2021 Summer Meeting.

Modifications to the Board of Directors Code of Conduct and Youth Rules and Regulations are proposed.

Board of Directors Code of Conduct Changes

[CC] Oleheiser. The President through the Executive Committee appointed a sub committee to review and propose changes to the Board of Directors Code of Conduct to address conduct of individual board members personal conduct issues.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CODE OF CONDUCT

(Updated 2021)

1. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to establish general standards of conduct required of members of the Minnesota Hockey (MH) Board of Directors (Board). Board members ("Members") are required to annually sign MH's Conflict of Interest Policy. Any other applicable federal, state and/or local law, including MH Bylaws, shall govern in the event of any conflict between such applicable law and this policy.

2. General Standards of Conduct. In order to fulfill its responsibility and support the vision, mission, values and goals of MH, the Board functions as a collegial unit. The Board functions well as a unit when the individual members act ethically, are committed to working together, operate in a non-partisan manner and speak with one voice. The Board creates a positive climate when it focuses on the future, acts with integrity and civility and uses its influence appropriately.

3. Authority to Act. Each Member is strongly encouraged to contribute his or her perspectives and talents to the Board. Although Members are free to respectfully voice their personal opinions, no Member has the authority to act on their own to further a personal agenda. Further, no Member has the authority to direct MH employees, volunteers, or operations, unless otherwise provided for in the MH Bylaws.

4. Informed Decision-Making. Members strive to make informed decisions based on sufficient information, thoughtful deliberation, and comprehensive understanding of issues. To achieve that goal, Members gather information by listening, asking questions, analyzing materials, and exploring issues thoroughly in conjunction with other Members, employees, volunteers, and other constituency groups.

5. Support for MH Rules as Presented In the MH Handbook. MH administrative and playing rules are detailed in the MH Handbook under Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Youth Rules and various policies and procedures. In addition, MH, as an affiliate of USA Hockey, follows the USAH rules as outlined in its handbook. Members are to uphold the rules adopted by both organizations and outlined in each handbook. However, as MH evolves, changes to the rules outlined in these handbooks may be necessary and, to that end, expression of ideas and opinions are also necessary. Expression of such ideas and opinions should be done with respect for the existing rules, their creators and current board members.

6. Official Spokesperson. Members are the stewards of the organization and advocates of its policies and programs. The official spokesperson for the Board is the ~~President chair of the board of MH or the chair's~~ President's designee. Whenever a Member issues a statement verbally, in writing or via a social media platform that could conceptually become public information, the statement should be identified as the personal opinion of the Member and not the official position of MH, unless specific permission to speak officially was granted by the Board. In the case of social media, the above holds true regardless of whether the Board member's or representative's name is visible on the account or not.

7. Removal. If the Board determines that the conduct of a Member has violated the member's professional or fiduciary responsibilities, Board policies or other governing law, the Board may recommend that the member be removed from the Board, for cause, under MH Bylaws, Article 7, or establish such other discipline as the Board deems appropriate. Any three Members of the Board of MH may bring to the President (or immediate past president if the situation involves the President) in an anonymous manner an allegation that a Member has violated the standards of conduct in this Code of Conduct. The President shall discuss the allegations with the Member alleged to have violated this Code of Conduct. If the President or the three initiating Members do not believe that the conduct has been rectified, either may bring the matter to the full Board for a determination of whether the Member should be removed from the Board for cause or other appropriate discipline. In addition if any other person believes a Member has violated this Code of Conduct, such person may bring to the President, or immediate past president if the allegation involves the President, in an anonymous manner such allegation to be addressed in the same manner as if the allegation was raised by a Member.

8. Standards of Personal Conduct. Each Member should conduct themselves in a manner that exhibits respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness in carrying out the Board's mission and responsibilities. Members shall demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fortitude in all activities related to inspire confidence and trust in our activities. Violation of such conduct includes, but is not limited to: (a) the use of abusive language to other Members, affiliate representatives, players, parents or others while conducting MH business; (b) consumption of or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or illegal drug during Board or committee meetings or while conducting MH business; (c) possession of unauthorized materials such as explosives, firearms, weapons or similar items during Board meetings or while conducting MH business; (d) discourtesy, rudeness to a fellow Board Member, staff member, affiliate member, volunteer, player or parent; (e) verbal, physical or visual harassment of another Board Member, staff member, affiliate member, volunteer, player or parent; (f) actual or threatened violence toward any individual or group; (g) conduct endangering the life, safety, health or well-being of others; (h) failure to follow any MH policy or procedure; and (i) bullying or taking unfair advantage of any other Member, staff member, affiliate member, player or parent.

9. Attendance at Board Meetings. Members are expected to regularly attend Board meetings, and to participate in Board meetings in a constructive and positive manner. Members should be prepared to discuss the issues and business on the agenda and read all background materials provided. Members should cooperate and respect the opinions of fellow Members and leave personal prejudices out of all Board discussions. Members are expected to attend Board meetings in a condition that enables them to participate in the meeting in compliance with the standards and ideals set forth in this policy.

10. Support of Board Actions. Members must support Board decisions even when the Member does not personally support the action taken.

YOUTH RULES AND REGULATIONS

[R1] Margenau. Remove the deposit requirement of \$500 for Tier II and High School National applications as the Tier II Champions come out of the Tier II Leagues and teams advancing to High School Nationals can come from the leagues and Jr Gold State Tournament.

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

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 ~~accompanied with a \$500 deposit toward a State Tier II Playoff fee.~~ 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.

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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 ~~accompanied with a \$500 deposit toward a State High School Playoff fee.~~ Eligibility of High School National Championship bound teams will be subject to Board of Directors approval at the Summer BOD meeting.

[End of Rules Committee Agenda]