

Rules Committee Report 2011 Annual Meeting

rev. 4 3/29/11



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Tuesday March 8, 2011.

The Committee reviewed the process that was used at the 2011 Winter Meeting to approve a Youth Rule change specifying that EMT's are required for each tournament game in progress. This change was proposed at the Fall Meeting and referred to the Tournaments Committee and Safety Committee. Those committees decided to re-propose the change as originally written. When it was brought up for discussion at the Winter Meeting, the Rules Committee Chairman questioned if it was proper to address it since it was not on the agenda. He was informed that it was carried over from the Fall Meeting.

In the Rules Committee's opinion, this was an improper process. Had the item been tabled or postponed, it may have been possible to bring it up at the next meeting. However, since the item was referred to another committee and involved a change to our governing documents, it would have had to be on the agenda to be considered. The actions taken stand – objections to the process have to be "timely" (at the time), not after-the-fact. The Rules Committee Chairman or anyone else could have appealed the Decision of the Chair, forcing the entire assembly to decide if it was proper to consider this change. Bottom line is, we did not follow our process and we need to be more diligent in following it in the future.

The Committee proposes modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules for Board consideration, as follows. There are also proposed changes to the USAH Minnesota District Operating Rules, which must be voted on by the USAH Minnesota District Board of Directors.

Bylaws Changes

B1. While it has been our intent that all Board Members have three-year terms, not all position terms are currently stated. The following proposed changes would specify that all Board Members have three-year terms.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

B1

Officers' Terms of Office: Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a three-year term. ~~Directors are elected by their representative District pursuant to the rules of their district.~~ Terms for outgoing officers shall end on the last day of the fiscal year following the election.

Other Board Members' Terms of Office: Board Members other than Officers and Directors Emeriti shall be elected as specified herein below for three-year terms. Terms for outgoing Board Members other than Officers and Directors Emeriti shall end at the conclusion of the Summer Meeting or on June 30th if no Summer Meeting is held.

Coach-in-Chief: The Coach-in-Chief shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors. ~~The term of office shall be three years.~~ The Coach-in-Chief shall be a non-voting board member, but in all other respects shall be entitled to all of the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of other Board members.

Officers: The officers of this corporation, when elected, shall be Directors at Large of the Board of Directors and shall be the President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary/Treasurer, not more than six Vice Presidents, and a Controller. ~~Such officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for three year terms.~~ Officers may be selected...

B2. It has been requested that the Board consider putting certain limitations on the authority of individual Board members. The following proposed changes would limit the authority of Board Members, similar to restrictions established by USAH on their Board members.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Authority: The governing and management of this corporation shall be vested in its Board of Directors.

Unless specifically authorized by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, no Board member shall represent to other persons, teams, leagues, associations or any other USAH Affiliate that he/she is speaking on behalf of MH or that his/her opinion is the official position of MH. Decisions or commitments that could reasonably be expected to impose upon MH any extraordinary financial obligation, legal liability or harm to its reputation or standing in the hockey community must be made or approved by the Board of Directors.

B3. In case of a Board of Directors vacancy we are to conduct an election to fill the unexpired term. The following proposed change would allow the President to appoint one or more individuals to cover the duties of the position until such time as the election is held.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vacancies: Board of Directors position vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by election by the remaining Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Until such time as the election is held, the President may appoint one or more individuals to cover the duties of the position.

B4. The current Bylaws stipulate that the MH President shall make a determination in the event of a dispute on the number of votes each designated representative is to cast in a USAH District Director election. Since the MH President is one of the individuals who casts votes in such elections, it would be preferred that some other entity make the determination. The following proposed change would resolve this conflict.

B5. At the Summer 2010 Meeting the Board passed changes to Article 15 specifying the voting procedure for USAH District Director elections. The Girls' HS Director feels that he should be able to cast votes for the HS girls that register with USAH and that the Boys' HS Director should be granted the same privilege for boys that register with USAH. This was discussed in depth at the Summer 2010 Meeting. The Girls' HS Director and Boys' HS Director are elected through a HS team process, and none of those teams are registered with USAH. Since the Girls' HS Director and Boys' HS Director are not elected in accordance with USAH policies, they are not eligible to cast votes for the HS players that register with USAH. The Rules Committee recommends that this proposal be defeated.

ARTICLE 15 - USA HOCKEY MINNESOTA DISTRICT DIRECTORS

1. It is the intent of MH that its current president be a USA Hockey Director and serve as an ambassador for Minnesota Hockey at the national level. Accordingly, MH shall nominate its current president as a candidate for Minnesota District Director.
2. USA Hockey (USAH) Minnesota District Directors shall be elected using the process outlined in the USAH Minnesota District Operating Rules.
3. MH Representatives indicated below shall cast votes in USAH Minnesota District Director elections based on their number of USAH-registered participants. The USAH Minnesota District Registrar will determine the number of votes that each designated representative will cast. ~~The MH President shall make a determination~~ In the event of a dispute, **a committee consisting of the USA Hockey Minnesota Directors in attendance shall make a determination.**

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- a. District Directors Registered Youth and Girls programs players and coaches in their respective Districts
 - b. Juniors Director Registered Junior program players and coaches
 - c. Adults Director Registered Adult program players and coaches
 - d. Women's Director Registered Women's program players and coaches
 - e. Disabled Hockey Director Registered Disabled Hockey program players and coaches
 - f. Boys' High School Director Registered Boys High School program players and coaches**
 - g. Girls' High School Director Registered Girls High School program players and coaches**
- The MH President shall cast votes for registered participants not fitting any of the above categories.
4. The MH representatives listed above may designate an alternate person to cast their votes, provided such designation is provided in writing (e-mail is acceptable) to the MH Secretary/Treasurer.

Youth Rules Changes

R1. Some have questioned if our revised Participation Rule policy of "you can play where you live or where go you go to school" applies to out-of-state residents attending school in Minnesota. The following proposed change will clearly specify that any out-of-state resident desiring to play hockey in Minnesota must follow the Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol, regardless of where they attend school.

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 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. Youth Hockey players must register and participate with the association whose boundaries incorporate the player's residence. If a player desires to participate on a team from any other association, the player must obtain a waiver.
 - a. All waiver requests must be submitted on a current Waiver Form provided by MH.
 - b. The Waiver Form must indicate the reason for the waiver request. (school attendance, opportunity to play on travel team, co-op team, etc.).
 - c. Any conditions that apply to a waiver must be indicated on the Waiver Form and initialed by all parties executing the waiver.
 - d. Waiver Forms must be signed by the releasing and receiving association presidents before being submitted to the District Director for approval. If the releasing and receiving associations are in two districts, the waiver form must be submitted to both District Directors for approval.

e. Players residing outside of the state of Minnesota that desire to play for MH must follow the Inter-Affiliate Player Transfer Protocol.

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Changes To USA Hockey Minnesota District Operating Rules

M1. As an accommodation to North and South Dakota, the Minnesota District Operating Rules allow the president to designate someone to represent the affiliate at any meeting. This verbiage is no longer needed, and the following proposed change removes it.

M2. MH Bylaws Article 15 specifies the process used to elect USAH Minnesota District Directors. It is desirable to add this verbiage to the Minnesota District Operating Rules.

M3. This proposed change specifies when the term of office for USAH Minnesota District Directors is completed, and is in agreement with the USAH Bylaws.

USA Hockey - Minnesota District Operating Rules

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1. The Minnesota District Board of Directors will consist of the elected USA Hockey Minnesota District Directors, the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar, the USA Hockey Minnesota District Risk Manager, the USA Hockey Minnesota District Referee-in-Chief, the USA Hockey Minnesota District Coach-in-Chief and the affiliate president of Minnesota Hockey. ~~The president may designate someone to represent the affiliate at any meeting.~~ An individual may serve in multiple positions, but is entitled to only one vote.
 4. Minnesota District USA Hockey Directors shall be elected at the Spring Meeting. The number of directors is determined by USA Hockey rules. The votes will be cast by representatives of the affiliate, and the affiliate will determine the representatives that will cast votes. The USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar will determine the number of votes that each designated representative will cast. Directors will be elected to a three year term. A vacancy can be filled at either the fall or spring meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the event that two or more Directors are being elected, there shall be one election in which each voting member casts vote(s) according to the number of Directors being elected (i.e. two Director openings; three candidates; vote for two) with the successful candidates being those receiving the most votes and at least a simple majority of the votes cast. **The number of votes cast for any one individual cannot exceed the number of votes as determined by the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar. In the event of a dispute, a committee consisting of the USA Hockey Minnesota Directors in attendance shall make a determination.** In a situation where multiple positions are being elected and not all of the positions are filled on the first ballot, any candidate receiving a simple majority is elected and a subsequent election shall take place among the remaining candidates. If none of the candidates have a simple majority, the candidate receiving the least votes shall be dropped and the position re-voted. If more than one new director is being elected, seniority will be ordered by the number of votes with the one elected first or receiving the most votes being the most senior director, etc. **The term of office for newly elected Director(s) shall begin following the completion of the next or upcoming USA Hockey Annual Congress.**
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[End of Rules Committee Report]