

# **MID ATLANTIC WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS**

**Revised and adopted on May 30, 2009  
Revised May 18, 2022**

**MID ATLANTIC WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
11 Butterworth Drive  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960**

## **Articles and Content**

	<b>Preface</b>
<b>Article I</b>	<b>Name of Organization</b>
<b>Article II</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Article III</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Article IV.</b>	<b>Membership and Voting Rights</b>
<b>Article V</b>	<b>Election of Officers of the Executive Committee</b>
<b>Article VI</b>	<b>Committees</b>
<b>Article VII</b>	<b>General Board Meetings</b>
<b>Article VIII</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
<b>Article IX</b>	<b>Equal Opportunity</b>
<b>Article X</b>	<b>Abuse</b>
<b>Article XI</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>
<b>Article XII</b>	<b>Division Rights</b>
<b>Article XIII</b>	<b>Member Organization Name and Venue Changes</b>
<b>Article XIV</b>	<b>USA Hockey American Development Model</b>

## **PREFACE**

The purpose of these By-Laws is to define the governance between the Member Organizations that comprise the Mid Atlantic Women's Hockey Association, Inc. The Mid Atlantic Women's Hockey Association shall maintain a set of rules and regulations, none of which shall supersede the By-Laws. The rules and regulations define the competitive relationships between the Member Organizations.

There are three groups commonly referred to in the By-Laws, Member Organizations, The General Board of Directors (General Board) and the Executive Committee.

**Member Organizations** – are the individual organizations that have been granted membership status in MAWHA. For purpose of these By-laws, and the rules and regulations, the term Member Organizations includes any requirements or actions taken by any officers, directors, coaches, volunteers, parents and/or players that form a part of or represent the Member Organization or any of its teams. Member Organizations are permitted to field teams at all age levels, comprised of players that are registered with USA Hockey and have agreed to engage in MAWHA league games. The same USA Hockey-rostered teams will also play non-league and tournament play that will not be sponsored by MAWHA.

**General Board of Directors** - the body of representatives of the Member Organizations that assembles to vote on various issues at the Annual Meeting, the Midwinter Meeting and at special meetings as requested by the MAWHA President.

**Executive Committee** - Officers of MAWHA elected by the General Board of Directors to manage the day to day activities of MAWHA.

## **ARTICLE I -- NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of the organization shall be the MID ATLANTIC WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC., a member of USA Hockey, Inc. It shall be operated as a non-profit corporation, pursuant to New Jersey statute pertaining to same. The Mid Atlantic Women's Hockey Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "MAWHA" or "the association") shall be a member of USA Hockey, Inc. and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA). The address of the association is 11 Butterworth Drive, Morristown, NJ 07960.

## **ARTICLE II – CORPORATE STATUS**

MAWHA is a non-profit corporation of the State of New Jersey, and it shall operate in perpetuity.

Said association is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to associations that qualify as exempt associations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the proposed clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for the public purposes as described in Article III. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the courts of the county which the principal office of MAWHA is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such association or associations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **ARTICLE III – PURPOSE**

The purpose of MAWHA is:

- To promote girls and women's ice hockey at all levels;
- To conduct organized leagues in different divisions assembled by skill level;
- To develop hockey skills; and
- To provide the avenue for Atlantic District Girl's and Women's teams to advance to the USA Hockey National Championships.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is available to any hockey organization with female team(s) properly registered with USA Hockey, and offered a Member Organization status upon approval of the Executive Committee after a majority affirmative vote of the General Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

All new organizations applying for MAWHA membership must have their application approved by the MAWHA Executive Committee prior to any advertisement or representation to the general public of MAWHA membership status. In order to be offered a Member Organization status, applicants must be able to establish that they will, in the upcoming season, field at least two teams within various MAWHA girls' levels. Irrespective of the foregoing requirement, an applicant organization is permitted to field at least one team only in the House/Developmental level.

All Member Organizations must declare a home rink, which will be used for practices and games, which does not currently house a current Member Organization.

The General Board of Directors has the authority to impose conditions on the proposed membership status of new Member Organizations. All new Member Organizations must comply with any and all conditions imposed by the General Board of Directors, including but not limited to any probationary status that may be a part of the conditions of their initial membership.

The probationary status and review of conditions imposed on a new Member Organization will be re-evaluated at each General Board of Directors' Annual Meeting. Upon, a review of the new Member Organization's performance during the recently completed season and their commitment to address the specified conditions, the new Member Organization's probationary status can be changed to full membership status by removing the previous conditions for the upcoming season. This would be accomplished with a majority affirmative vote by the General Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. There is no sunset on probationary status. Probationary status must end with a majority affirmative vote to accept or deny full member status by the General Board of Directors at the Annual meeting.

### **REPRESENTATION/VOTING**

Member Organizations within MAWHA are entitled to have one voting representative on the General Board of Directors. If a Member Organization enters 5 or more total teams over two divisions or more they are entitled to a second voting representative on the General Board of Directors. If 10 or more teams are entered in the league by a Member Association that Member Organization will be entitled to a third voting representative on the General Board of Directors.

Each Member Organization's voting representative is entitled to a single vote on the General Board of Directors. All Executive Committee members will also have a single vote on the General Board of Directors.

#### REFUSAL OF MEMBERSHIP

The General Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse any application for membership at their discretion.

#### TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Member Organizations shall be subject to suspension or forfeiture of their membership in the event of a failure to comply with any of the requirements of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, or decisions of the General Board or Executive Committee of this association as hereinafter provided.

Any action for termination of the membership of any Member Organization in MAWHA shall be initiated upon written recommendation of the Commissioner to the Executive Committee, and the Commissioner shall specifically set forth the charges against the offending Member Organization. The said notice from the Commissioner shall be by both regular and certified mail to the offending Member Organization's President or such other person as may be designated by the offending Member Organization to receive notices from MAWHA, and which notice shall set forth a date and time of hearing before the Executive Committee.

At such hearing, the Commissioner and the offending Member Organization may present such evidence, as each feels necessary to support their respective positions. Termination of Membership requires a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive Committee eligible to vote.

A Member Organization's membership in MAWHA may be terminated by:

- not entering a team in any division within MAWHA for longer than one year.
- not complying with the MAWHA By-Laws and/or the Rules and Regulations.
- failing and/or refusing to fulfill its contractual obligations to either its players, coaches, paid officials, rinks, MAWHA and/or USA Hockey, Inc. and its Affiliates.
- failing to play its MAWHA schedule and/or MAWHA playoff games as scheduled, unless caused by unavoidable accidents in traveling, or an act of God.
- Any actions, conduct or defaults, of the Member Organization, which in the opinion of the General Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee, are detrimental to the general welfare of hockey.

## MAWHA OPERATING BUDGET AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

An annual MAWHA operating budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and presented to the General Board of Directors for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Each Member Organization shall be assessed annual fees necessary for the Association to operate in support of the operating budget. The assessment of fees and method of payment by the Member Organizations shall be determined by the Executive Committee. A Member Organization failing to fulfill its financial obligation shall be deemed not to be in good standing and not eligible to cast votes.

The Executive Committee may award appropriate individual and team awards deemed within the means of the MAWHA budget.

## EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Any Member Organization violating the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, or decisions of the General Board or Executive Committee of this association and /or USA Hockey, which violation causes this association to incur expenses, shall be liable to this association for the full amount of such expenses or part thereof as shall be determined to be reasonable by the Executive Committee of this association. The member shall be suspended until this money has been paid.

## **ARTICLE V -- ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The elected officers of the Executive Committee of MAWHA shall be:

1. President
2. Commissioner
3. Executive Vice President
4. Secretary/Statistician
5. Treasurer
6. Vice President, Scheduling & Playoffs
7. Vice President, League Operations
8. Vice President, Player Development & Advancement
9. Vice President, Media & Marketing

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The officers shall be elected to office by the General Board of Directors by a simple majority vote.

Any candidate for office must notify the nominating committee in writing or be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting by a 2/3rds majority vote of the General Board of Directors.

The officers shall be elected to three-year terms commencing at the conclusion of the vote for office at the annual meeting at which they are elected and terminating at the beginning of the vote for office at the meeting at which they stand for election or reelection. The Secretary, VP of Media/Marketing, and VP of Player

development/Advancement shall be elected at the 2022 General Membership meeting and every three years thereafter; the Executive Vice President, VP of Scheduling/Playoffs, and Treasurer shall be elected at the 2023 General Membership meeting and every three years thereafter; the President, Commissioner, and VP League Operations shall be elected at the 2024 General Membership meeting and every three years thereafter.

### VACANCIES

Vacancies in any Executive Committee office other than President shall be filled by appointment of the President and will continue until the next regularly scheduled General Board of Directors meeting, at which time there shall be an election either for the remaining term of the vacated office or a new full two year term, whichever is appropriate. The appointment need not be from the General Board of Directors.

The vacancy of the President's office shall be filled by the Executive Vice President as described below.

### PRESIDENT

1. Presiding at all meetings of the membership and is an ex-officio member of all divisions and committees.
2. MAWHA's liaison to AHAA, INC. and its affiliates regarding girl's hockey matters.
3. The power to call special meetings of this Association at their discretion.
4. The power to determine questions arising from emergencies not provided for in the Rules and
5. Regulations, or Bylaws until such time as they may be acted upon by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.
6. The right to attend and represent this association at other ice hockey meetings
7. To fill vacancies on the Executive Committee, other than the President.
8. The right to appoint non-Executive Committee positions.
9. The President shall assume the role of Commissioner if the Commissioner is unable to continue their term of office.

### COMMISSIONER

1. Full authority to review the day to day game operations of MAWHA
2. Responsible for the interpretation of these By-laws, Rules and Regulations and all operating procedures, and how they pertain to all MAWHA members. Such action by the Commissioner shall not be inconsistent with the Rules, Regulations and By-Laws of USA Hockey, Inc. or its affiliates.
3. Empowered to impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of MAWHA.
4. Full authority with sole discretion to suspend any Member Organization, its officers, teams, players, coaches and team officials for conduct detrimental to the general welfare of hockey.

### EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

1. Act as assistant to the President as it pertains to all business matters and shall preside in the absence of the President.
2. Automatically assume the Presidency upon the inability of the President to continue a term of office.
3. Serve as Ace Coordinator and work to organize and support the Ace Coordinators of Member Organizations.

### VICE PRESIDENT, Scheduling & Playoffs

1. Responsible for MAWHA's scheduling operations, including number of games played at each level and any league showcase tournaments.
2. Serve as Tournament Director for MAWHA Playoffs.
3. Provide final teams and seeding to AAHA for District playoffs and advancement.
4. Act as assistant to the Executive Vice President and preside in the absence of the Executive.

### TREASURER

1. Oversee the financial operations of MAWHA, shall review records of all receipts and expenditures, and shall be authorized to sign all checks or wire transfers for withdrawal of funds
2. Prepare periodic financial reports of operations as required by the by-laws.
3. Receive and deposit funds into MAWHA bank and investment accounts.
4. Issue checks and wire transfers within prescribed limits.
5. Complete and issue the annual Treasurer's report.
6. Establish and propose the fee levels for each Member Organization, for approval by the General Board of Directors.

### SECRETARY

1. Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings, prepare minutes and attend to all correspondence and meeting notices.
2. Appropriately advise the Executive Board and the members of the General Board of Directors of important information that is made known to the Secretary and requires communication to the Executive Board and the General Board of Directors.
3. Publish and maintain the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, and other Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings in a timely manner.
4. Oversee the annual distribution of copies of the latest MAWHA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and all amendments thereto.
5. Serve as official league statistician, accumulating and providing statistical information as

#### Vice President, League Operations

1. Oversee MAWHA's team declarations process.
2. Ensure roster compliance during season and prior to MAWHA playoffs.
3. Work with the District Registrar to ensure proper credentials packets for District championship and National championship tournaments.
4. Assist VP, Scheduling & Playoffs for any/all rescheduled, canceled, postponed, or forfeited games.
5. Hold meetings and/or communicate with the Member Organizations regarding any operational issues and relay any issues related to an organization to the Executive Board.

#### Vice President, Player Development & Advancement

1. Work to organize and support the development of players within MAWHA.
2. Develop initiatives to increase player participation across all levels.
3. Provide resources for MAWHA players seeking to continue hockey careers at the college or postgraduate levels.
4. Cross-report to Atlantic District Director of Player Development, and announce and coordinate District initiatives as they pertain to MAWHA.
6. Assist President in hosting of 8U Jamboree tournaments.

#### Vice President, Media & Marketing

1. Update and monitor MAWHA website.
2. Create and maintain MAWHA presence on all social media platforms.
3. Develop marketing initiatives to increase visibility of organizations, teams, players, coaches, and officials across the league.
4. Assist President and VP League Operations in compiling and maintaining updated contact list for all organizations.

#### APPOINTED POSITIONS

The following positions will be appointed by the President:

##### Referee-in Chief

The Referee-in-Chief (RIC) shall be directly responsible to secure and supervise the on-ice officials together with the approval of the Commissioner. The RIC shall be responsible to oversee the development of referees in MAWHA. The RIC is the direct liaison with the AAHA and other districts on areas of improvement of officiating and fee structure. The RIC will make recommendations for continuing education programs to improve the level of refereeing overall.

### Statistician

The Statistician shall accumulate and provide statistical information as necessary to MAWHA Member Organizations.

### Ace Coordinator

The Ace Coordinator shall work to organize and support the Ace Coordinators of Member Organizations.

### Director of Player Development

The Director of Player Development shall work to organize and support the Development of Players within MAWHA. The Director will cross report to Atlantic District Director of Player Development, and announce and coordinate District initiatives as they pertain to MAWHA.

## **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

The following shall be permanent committees, each headed by a Chairman, appointed by the President.

- Team Evaluation Committee
- Nominations Committee

### A. TEAM EVALUTION COMMITTEE

The committee will comprise three members from the Board of Directors, appointed by the President, who work to evaluate and advise the Commissioner on the competitive level of Member Organization teams or teams of organizations requesting Member Organization status.

### B. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee will comprise three members from the Board of Directors, appointed by the President, who work to evaluate and advise the President on nominations for positions on the Executive Committee. The Committee shall make nominations at the Annual Meeting. It will be appointed by the President in advance of the Annual Meeting, and it will announce its slate of proposed officers at the Annual Meeting. Any nominations for officers other than those announced by the Nominating Committee must be submitted in writing to the President on or before the 1st of May or nominated from the floor by a 2/3rds majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VII –GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS**

### **POWERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The power and duties of the General Board shall be:

1. To elect the officers of the Association.
2. To create, amend or revise the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations.
3. To act upon any temporary ruling by the President on emergencies not provided for in the Rules and Regulations.
4. To remove from office with cause, any officer or member of the Board of Directors with two-thirds majority vote.
5. To act on any other items presented to the Board, including but not limited to, Membership Applications, Venue Changes and Rink Changes

### **ATTENDANCE**

The General Board of Directors shall meet at least twice a year:

- An Annual Meeting will be held no later than the final Saturday in May, and
- a Mid-winter Meeting will be held no later than the final Saturday in January.

Quorum - One third of the total directors (including officers) must be present in person to constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors of this Association.

All meetings are open to the public. However, when organizations are requesting Member Organization status, the voting on their membership is closed to Member Organizations only.

Any Officer or other member of the General Board of Directors unable to attend a meeting shall so communicate in writing to the President, Executive Vice President, or Secretary, and state the reason for their absence. If a Director is absent from two consecutive meetings, for reasons the Board declares to be insufficient, their resignation shall be deemed to have been tendered and accepted.

### **WRITTEN NOTICE**

The time, date and place of all meetings are set by the President and communicated by the Secretary to the Member Organizations. Written notice communicated by the Secretary will include a proposed agenda for the meeting and shall precede the meeting by no less than two (2) weeks.

- Agenda items – All items to be included on the agenda shall be received by the President, by May 1 for the Annual Meeting and by January 1 for the Mid-Winter Meeting.
- Non-Agenda items – Any item not presented in time for the issuance of the agenda included with the Written Notice may be voted upon only with the 2/3 consent of the General Board of Directors to add it to the agenda.

## MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

Promptly following each meeting, the Secretary shall transcribe, copy and mail (or electronically mail) the meeting minutes to MAWHA Member Organization representatives, to each MAWHA Officer and to appropriate officials of USA Hockey.

## SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings, including adjunct, Executive Committee, appointed Committees or Divisional Meetings may be called by the President at any time.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Annual Meeting order of business shall be as follows, unless changed by the President:

- Welcome/Opening Remarks
- Roll Call
- Minutes of previous meeting
- Treasurers Report
- Member Organization Name or Venue Change Requests
- Probationary Membership Review
- New Membership Application Presentations
- Commissioner's Report
- Committee Reports
- By-Law and Rules & Regulation Changes
- Election of Executive Committee Members
- Unfinished business
- New business

## VOTING PROCEDURES

At all meetings of the General Board of Directors, voting shall be by a show of hands, unless the President decides to request that a written ballot be used.

## MEETING PROCEDURES

"Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern conduct of all meetings of the General Board of Directors, unless modified by these Bylaws.

## VOTING AT GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The right to vote at the General Board of Directors Meeting shall be limited to one vote for each Member Organization unless otherwise described in the heretofore "Representation/Voting" section of these by-laws.

Each member of the Executive Committee is also permitted one vote.

No individual serving in more than one capacity shall be entitled to more than one vote.

No proxy voting is permitted.

In all meetings a majority vote will carry a motion, except in those instances calling for a greater than majority vote as outlined in the By-Laws.

If a Member Organization fails to be properly represented at a regular meeting the Member Organization will be fined no less than \$50.

A two-thirds vote of the General Board of Directors shall be required to approve a motion from the floor to amend, delete or add to the By-Laws of the MAWHA. This action may only be undertaken at the Annual Meeting.

### **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS**

These articles may be amended, added to, repealed, or suspended with prior written notice at any meeting of the Board of Directors

### **ARTICLE IX – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

MAWHA provides an equal competitive opportunity, taking into account ability, physical size and other athletic criteria, to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate, consistent with the requirements of the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, as amended, in amateur athletic competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

### **ARTICLE X – ABUSE**

MAWHA prohibits all sexual and physical abuse and supports the criteria dealing with these issues as established by USA Hockey.

### **ARTICLE XI – OTHER MATTERS**

Any matter not covered by these By-Laws may be determined by the Executive Committee in season.

### **ARTICLE XII - DIVISION RIGHTS**

USA Hockey District Registrars issue team rosters by levels or classes as determined by USA Hockey. MAWHA segments the girls' divisions to identically match these levels. MAWHA's skill level segments that are offered at each age level are:

- USA Hockey Tier 1

- USA Hockey Tier 2
- House/Developmental

Each level will have a representative on the Executive Committee. That individual will be responsible for communicating the issues and concerns of the Member Organizations in that level. The representatives will serve for two-year terms.

### MEETINGS

Each level has the right to hold independent meetings of its Member Organizations to address matters pertaining exclusively to that level. Any decisions proposed in these meetings, will require majority approval of the Executive Committee. The General Board of Directors by 2/3rds majority vote may overturn Executive Committee-approved meeting decisions at the next scheduled General Board of Directors meeting.

### DEFINITION OF LEVELS

**GIRLS YOUTH** - Will consist of teams of girls aged 19 and under. The teams will be organized by the three skill levels divisions – TIER 1, TIER 2 and HOUSE/DEVELOPMENTAL. These divisions will be subdivided into age brackets per USA Hockey Tournament Guidelines where applicable. The player skill levels for each tier are further defined as follows:

- **Tier 1** - Players, at each age level, that can play at the highest skill level. These teams are National Tournament bound at the USA Hockey Tier 1 level.
- **Tier 2** – Players, at each age level, that play at an intermediate skill level. These teams are National Tournament bound at the USA Hockey Tier 2 level.
- **House/Developmental** - Designed for the beginning players of all ages. These teams are not national tournament bound. The emphasis is primarily on skill development.

Member Organizations may only enter a team(s) in the MAWHA girls' division that identically match the level or class of roster issued to the team by their USA Hockey District Registrar. For the purposes of division placement, all national tournament bound teams must provide a copy of their roster to MAWHA prior to that current season's scheduling meeting.

If a team moves from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in their district after the scheduling meeting, all league games for that team at Tier 1 will be cancelled, that team shall be dropped from the MAWHA standings at Tier 1 for that season and the team shall be ineligible for MAWHA playoffs at Tier 1 for that season, regardless of what point in the season that the tournament bound status change occurs.

### Dual Registration and Freedom of Movement

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Division players can only be registered with one youth female USA Hockey tournament bound team at a time. Requests to transfer between teams will follow the USA Hockey rules for transfer. Individual transfer waivers can be granted by the Commissioner.

All players in all Divisions are released at the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championships and are free to move to any other existing Organizations.

### Eligibility to enter Tier 1 Division

All Member Organizations are eligible to field teams at this level. However, as a general rule, a Member Organization seeking to enter a team in the Tier 1 Division for the first time should first enter that team in the Tier 2 Division and finish in first place in that Division or win the MAWHA Tier 2 Division Championship.

A Member Organization entering a Tier 2 Division team into the Tier 1 Division may not roster any players from other Member Organizations in the Tier 1 Division, unless the transferring player has requested and received a waiver from the Commissioner.

The Tier 1 Division will permit the participation of only the top competitive team in each age classification from any Member Organization. In the case where an existing Tier 1 Division team has 8 or more players aging off of the current team at the end of a season, the Member Organization will be eligible to enter a new Tier 1 team at the next age level, without having to compete in the Tier 2 Division.

The Commissioner, upon recommendation of the Team Evaluation Committee, may move an existing Tier 1 Division team into the Tier 2 Division prior to the start of the next season's recruitment period. The Executive Committee may permit Member Organizations to enter teams in the Tier 1 Division based on the past history of the Member Organization.

**ADULT WOMEN** - Will consist of A, B, C, D and Recreational Skill Levels. Membership is open to any organization comprised of women 18 year or older. Tier I and Tier II players are not eligible to participate in this division. Individual waivers can be granted by the commissioner.

**HIGH SCHOOL** – Will consist of all skill levels of play. Membership is open to any recognized School sponsored team comprised completely of female players matriculating or home schooled in the sponsoring High School District. Participants on High School teams must attend, or in the case of Home Schooled students live, High School Leagues will be recognized by MAWHA.

## **Article XIII - MEMBER ORGANIZATION NAME AND RINK VENUE CHANGES**

### **CHANGE OF NAME (Member Organization)**

An application by a Member Organization for a change of name, in whole or in part, shall be submitted in writing to the President of MAWHA at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Upon receipt of such application, the President shall refer same to the Commissioner, who may, at his discretion, conduct such investigation, as the Commissioner deems appropriate. The Commissioner shall thereafter report the findings to the General Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. The change of name shall be approved upon two-thirds majority vote.

The Commissioner shall consider the following factors, among such other matters, as the Commissioner may deem relevant:

1. Proof of financial stability.
2. A written agreement to abide by all Rules and Regulations of MAWHA including all provisions of the By-Laws.
3. Written proof of a commitment to and by a rink that will serve as the home rink.
4. In the case of separation from an existing parent Member Organization;
  - a. Written documentation that said separation is mutually agreeable.

### **CHANGE OF RINK VENUE (Member Organization)**

An application by a Member Organization for a change of rink venue shall be submitted in writing to the President of MAWHA at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The application shall clearly state the reason for the desired rink change.

A Change of Venue shall be approved by two-thirds majority vote of the General Board of Directors.

If a Change of Venue results in relocation to a venue within a ten-mile radius of its original venue, there shall be no conditions imposed for such change, however, the member still is required to submit the venue request in writing to the President by the above stated deadline. If a Member Organization fails to make the request by the deadline, then the request shall be taken up by the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee may grant provisional acceptance of the venue change.

## **Article XIV - USA HOCKEY AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

MAWHA Member Organizations shall adopt and follow the American Development Model guidelines as established by their USA Hockey District.