



## **District Directors Meeting Report June 18, 2016 Kelly Inn, St. Cloud**

Directors Present:

Steve Oleheiser-D12, Pete Hill-D11, Colleen Donovan-D10, Tom Christiansen-D9, Rick Rackness-D8, Steve Gapinski-D5, Jeremy Reed-D4, Todd Elmer-D3, Tom Mickus-D1

Others: Dave Stigen- V.P. Gold Region, Nick Nyhus-Tournaments Committee Chairman, John Perry.

1. Mites Jan 31st Date: ***This has already been addressed in the Rules Committee and in the committees' report for the BOD for approval.***
2. Tag Up Rule: ***The Directors indicated they have no desire to change the current Tag-Up Rule,***
3. Tier I: ***Tier 1 14-15 level has become a very questionable program for the District Directors!!!***

***Issues have surfaced that jeopardize the program success and could create significant liability for some districts. Some issues that exist.***

- a. ***Low registration numbers in districts. Several districts are seeing low numbers in both youth 14 & 15. Some are reporting virtually no numbers for girls at either level. The Directors are VERY concerned that several districts will not be able to field a team at any level.***
- b. ***Inability to find program managers and/or coaches is becoming a significant issue. Without Managers or coaches these teams if the numbers do support will not have QUALIFIED!! Leaders to coach them. The Directors feel that if this is sold as the MN***

- Hockey Premier Tier 1 program there should be high level coaches for the teams, we should not settle for less!!!*
- c. Budgetary issues. With Issues of low registrations and possible cutting of teams it has become increasingly difficult to budget for the programs. Some districts must reserve ice time for the practices and in some cases this is non-returnable. The District will be financially responsible for what has been reserved needed or not. Districts also are having a difficult time determining player fees to be charged. The parents (rightfully so) want to know the total program costs beforehand. It would be unfortunate for a district to return to the player's family to request more than was agreed at registration. With less than optimal numbers registered on a team costs will need to be distributed among the players that are registered. Even looking at jerseys and socks expense, if the numbers are not there the costs are still and someone will need to pay the bill. If the costs are adjusted to registered players to compensate for low numbers, we could see players withdraw and demand refunds of some fees paid. This again puts the District in a bad position.*
  - d. Costs to player's Families outside of just the registration/program fees. We have already heard that some families are reluctant to register when they start to consider the costs to the family's budget to pay for game week-ends. Most teams will be required at some time to travel and costs for hotels, food, gas and other expenses add up for families that are gearing up for the up-coming regular season.*
  - e. Conflict with fall sports. In the outstate this may be more of an issue, However just like us in season having issues with players commitment, we know that other sports take issue with the all year hockey commitment. This also is in opposition to the total athlete and multi-sport athlete ideals that USAH and MN Hockey claim to embrace.*
  - f. Concerns about Game day schedules and what happens if 2,3,or 4 districts do not have teams. Several district may need to combine to create a team this could impact number of games played and the schedule to play those games??*

## ***Where Do We GO?????***

*The District Directors present at this meeting in St. Cloud moved to present a motion to suspend the Tier I for the 2016 fall season at the 2016 MN Hockey Summer BOD Meeting.*

*There is a great amount of apprehension with regard to this program and the Directors are not inclined to see MN Hockey Fail with regard to this. This would create the opportunity for those outside MN Hockey to indicate that MN Hockey can't handle Tier 1. This is not something that we want to happen!!!*

**Other options to consider:**

**Place all financial responsibility and all coordination into the H.P. or Hockey Ops. Or into MN Hockey.**

**Create an Open state wide tryout opportunity and determine how many teams will be formed based on the numbers of players registered statewide and form geographical teams from those players.**

**Create IN SEASON tier 1 teams from each district. Allow players to be rostered on 2 teams (the association and the tier 1). We may have issues with our association teams about players commitments, but if we expect the soccer and football and other fall sports to handle it, maybe we need to handle it.**

4. 15 U Girls Leagues and Tournaments: **The Directors Agreed that 15-UA and 15-UB can play in tournaments together, I.E. 15-UB can play in tournaments designated A. Just as they two levels can play each other in season for scrimmages. This is addressed in R3 of the Rules committee report.**

5. Rules committee report/proposals review: The Directors reviewed the rules Committee report that will be presented at the June 25 BOD meeting.

The Directors request changes:

**R1** Change to:

**Exception: Players enrolling in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade for the first time are immediately eligible to compete at any division in their new Association of School Attendance With District Directors approval**

**R5** Leave original 3 Game suspension rule but remove a sentence indicating that USAH Playing Rules for Midgets also apply to Junior Gold.

**R7** Remove G addition and change thresholds to indicated in red:

Q. Fair Play

3. Fair Play total "equivalent" penalty minute criteria. (Criteria based on 1 hour games for Pee wee/12&Under and below and 1½ hour games for Bantam/14&Under and up.)

a. Squirr.....10 minutes	e. Girls 10&Under .....	10minutes
b. Pee Wee .....12 minutes	f. Girls 12&Under .....	12 minutes
c. Bantam.....14 minutes	g. Girls 14&Under .....	14 minutes
d. Jr. Gold.....16-minutesi.	Girls 16&Under and 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	f. Minor plus Misconduct (2 & 10) .....	12 Minutes
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- |                     |            |   |  |
|---------------------|------------|---|--|
| b. Major .....      | 5 Minutes  | <del>g. Minor plus Misconduct (2 &amp; 10) (Junior Gold).....</del> | <del>2 Minutes</del>                   |
| c. Misconduct ..... | 10 Minutes | h. Misconduct for no mouth guard .....                              | 2 Minutes                              |
| d. Game Misconduct  | 10 Minutes | i. Penalty Shot.....  | Equivalent minutes to penalty assessed |
| e. Match            | 10 Minutes |   |  |

6. AA Region Process: ***The Directors reviewed the proposed process for placement of AA Bantam and AA Peewee teams into the regions. This is the same proposal presented at the Spring BOD and District Directors meeting. The District Directors approved of the proposal.***

7. Tournament Committee Report

1. During OT, have goalies switch sides - I have submitted to Rules. ***This was requested by the District Directors and they are in support of the change.***
2. Remove goal judges - I have submitted to Rules. ***This was requested by the District Directors and they are in support of the change.***
3. State Tournament Banquets - Required or not required? Regardless, we will provide some standards. ***The Directors determined that requiring banquets is not the best alternative. The directors recommend that the format published for the tournaments starts earlier on Friday to allow games to be completed in time to host and banquet on Friday night. It is the hope of the Directors that teams would be more inclined to attend a banquet if held on Friday. This could possibly eliminate the need for some teams to travel and stay Thursday when they don't play until Friday evening. The Directors also indicated that teams should be made aware that MN Hockey desires they attend a banquet hosted by the Tournament host as opposed to an outside entity unless the host is not hosting a banquet.***
4. Region Tournament Analysis - We are reviewing the financials and options
5. B2 & C State Tournaments - do DDs support having these? ***The District Directors do not support State tournaments designated at these levels. It is pointed out that MN Hockey rules state that MN Hockey does not recognize the B2 level with regard to post season play and a team that is designated "B2" cannot be prevented from entering into postseason play based on the "B2" designation.***
6. AA Region Format - I wasn't included in this discussion - where can I get the details? ***The Directors provided the details as were discussed in number 6 on the agenda.***
7. VFW State Tournaments - need to be sanctioned. ***It also should be noted any rules infraction that involves further suspension will carry into MN Hockey events. The VFW Regions and State Tournaments are part of the season and are governed by USAH and MN Hockey rules.***
8. Medals for Regions - based on the DDs request, I've requested budget dollars to add medals for Regions - pending budget approval. ***The District Directors requested that this be removed from consideration.***

9. HEP Committee Recommendation Fair Play Points Jr. Gold: ***The District Directors reviewed the HEP Committees recommendation regarding Fair Play Points for JR. Gold. The Director accept the recommendations and currently do not support a change to the fair play points with regard to JR. Gold.***
  
10. 15-U Proposal           ***The Directors discussed the 15-U proposal presented and currently do not endorse the proposal. The Directors agree the proposal is a beginning however they do not believe that the current proposal is what will correct the 15-U league problems entirely. The Directors believe that more work needs to be done to recruit and more work between the MN Hockey Programs and the High School coaches needs to be done. The Directors agreed that teams can play inter-level therefore if a team designated A desires to change that designation before December 31<sup>st</sup> they should be allowed to.***