

Rules Committee Report 2017 Winter Meeting

rev. 2 1/3/17



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Monday, November 28, 2016.

The District Directors requested that we look at putting together a Play-Down Policy for players that are not physically/medically able to play with their age group. As it turns out, the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar already has a policy on this, which was created by Gerry Brown. Todd Elmer will provide each of the Directors with a copy of the Policy and discuss it with the Directors at the upcoming meeting.

The District Directors also requested that we look at rule requiring home teams to supply warm-up pucks before games. The Rules Committee did not consider this a "Rules" matter, but rather a District issue.

Modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules are proposed as shown below, as well as some items for discussion only.

Bylaws Changes

*B1. We presently state that female players may participate on either Girls teams or Youth teams. Apparently some Associations are trying to mandate that female players participate on Girls teams, claiming that "may participate" does not mean they *have* to let them. The Rules Committee is proposing to strengthen this language so it leaves no ambiguity.*

B2. Add Adults to the exceptions for playing on more than one team.

ARTICLE 5 – REGISTRATION

- A. Affiliate members whose team(s) intend to participate with any other MH or USAH team(s) must register all of their players and coaches and all of their teams in accordance with the rules and regulations of their respective playing division, and list all of their players and coaches on an official USAH Roster.
- B. Out of state and Canadian teams playing in leagues under the jurisdiction of MH shall comply with all regulations of this Article of these By-Laws.
- [B1] C. ~~Female players may participate on either Girl's/Women's teams or Youth/Adult teams.~~
Male and female players shall be allowed to participate or try out for all Youth and Adult teams while only female players are allowed to participate or try out for Girls and Women's teams.
- [B2] D. No player shall be registered with two or more MH/USAH teams at the same time regardless of division or classification. Exceptions may be made for House League teams, MH Tier 1 teams, **Adult** and Women hockey players only. (Refer to Youth Rules and Regulations and to Women's Operating Rules)

B3. Remove legacy reference to "open teams" regarding Canadian players.

ARTICLE 10 – CHA RELATIONS

- 1. CHA (Canadian) teams playing in the US must have permission to do so. Likewise, US teams playing in Canada must follow similar procedure. Permission can be obtained from the USAH Minnesota District Registrar. Failure to obtain permission may subject the team to suspension.
- [B3] ~~2. Open teams and leagues should be certain that transfers from the Canadian Hockey Association have been procured for any Canadian players and/or foreign players on their teams.~~

Youth Rules Changes

R1. Need to update our Age Certification paragraph to account for the USA Hockey database.

III. CITIZENSHIP AND AGE REGULATIONS

[R1] E. AGE CERTIFICATION - Government issued (state or county) birth certificates or passport must be presented for all players for inspection by the proper authority at the time of ~~player registration~~ **a player registers** (except as provided in paragraph I-A herein) ~~and prior to each district, region and state tournament~~ **unless the player is already on the age/citizenship verification list provided by USA Hockey.**

R2. Our Youth Rules presently require a skate sharpening service to be available at all District, Region and State Tournament sites. It is proposed to ease this to a recommendation.

R3. Rather than repeating the team check-in process in the Tournaments section of the Youth Rules, it is proposed to refer to the process that is covered elsewhere in the Handbook. The reference to coach/manager meetings and CEP verification should be retained, since these are not included in the normal check-in process (page 69).

X. DISTRICT, REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

O. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – The following minimum requirements shall apply to facilities used for MH Region and State Tournaments. Any exceptions to these requirements must be requested in writing to the Tournaments Committee Chair for consideration by the Tournaments Committee.

1. The ice sheet shall be a minimum of 200'x85', refrigerated (artificial), enclosed in a building which seats a minimum of 500 spectators.
2. The facility must have a mechanical resurfacers (Zamboni) in good operating condition. If propane or gasoline powered, a catalytic muffler should be installed and adequate building ventilation provided.
3. Four dressing rooms (minimum) are required. They must be...
10. A public address system in the arena is required.
- ~~11. Skate sharpening service must be provided at the arena.~~
11. A full service concession stand is recommended. Miscellaneous supplies such as mouthguards, tape, sticks, and skate laces should be available for sale, **as well as skate sharpening service.**

[R2] Q. CREDENTIALS - A Credentials Committee, including an official of MH such as a District Director or his/her designee, shall check each team's credentials prior to their playing of any games **in accordance with the Team Credentials Package section in the Handbook.** ~~Each team participating in invitational, district, region or state tournaments must present the following credentials package to the Credentials Committee prior to tournament participation. Any team that does not have a properly completed credentials package is not allowed to participate in the tournament. A meeting of the coaches and managers of the participating teams should be held before the tournament starts.~~

- ~~1. Player Roster must be approved by an individual that is authorized to approve rosters.~~
 - ~~2. Waivers for any players who are not members of the team's affiliate, based on the Participation Rule. Waivers apply only to MH teams. Invitational Tournaments are not required to check waivers.~~
 - ~~3. An approval letter from the Minnesota District Registrar for any player that is playing in a younger age group than is implicit based on the player's birthdate.~~
 - ~~4. High School attendance certification form for Junior Gold and Junior Gold 16 teams.~~
 5. For MH District, Region and State tournaments, the Coaching Education Program certification requirements shall be checked for all coaches prior to the first game of the tournament.
- [R3]

R4. Due to some rearranging of paragraphs in the Conduct section, the 3-game suspension rule for spectators removed from the arena was inadvertently placed so it only applied to removal by the district director or his/her designate at District/Region/State Tournaments. Since this was not the intent, the revision below is proposed and is intended to become effective immediately on its approval by the Board.

XIV. CONDUCT

C. If spectator conduct becomes so abusive that, in the referee(s) opinion, it is distracting from the game or inciting the players, the referee(s) will stop play and:

1. Ask the coach(es) to control their spectators and/or;
2. Ask the coach(es) to request specified individuals to leave the arena.

Disruptive use of artificial noise makers will be considered abusive conduct. Possession of a device that could be detrimental to the players or to the conduct of the game, such as a laser pointer, will be considered abusive conduct and reported to local law enforcement officials.

D. During MH playoffs or invitational tournaments, the District Director, designated district personnel or the tournament director shall have the authority to take actions as necessary to control spectator conduct.

~~Any spectator removed under this paragraph will incur a mandatory minimum 3-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body.~~

E. Any spectator removed under either Para. C or D above will incur a mandatory minimum 3-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body.

Proposed Changes For Review Only

Since there continue to be debates about residency, the Rules Committee reviewed the present definition. The revision below is for review and discussion only. If a revised definition is agreed upon, it will be brought to Board consideration at a future meeting.

IV. PARTICIPATION

Residence (current): the community in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s)/custodian(s) as confirmed by a court, having primary custody live(s) the majority of time when tryouts begin. A pending move is not considered unless the parent or legal guardian has closed on the sale of a new residence. Players moving after tryouts begin can be assigned to teams on a space-available basis.

Residence (proposed): The legal dwelling of the player's parent(s) or court-appointed legal guardian(s) having custody of the player as substantiated by sufficient evidence to establish the location of the legal dwelling such as a valid driver's license, lease, property tax bill, utility bills or other persuasive evidence and where the player lives with closely related family members and has the majority of their personal possessions. A pending relocation is not considered to be the player's residence unless the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have completed the purchase or executed a lease and moved into the new residence. In the case of foreign exchange students, the place the player resides while in the USA shall be considered the player's residence.

The District Directors asked that we look at putting together a policy for reporting concussions and a punishment if not reported. Below is a proposed Clearance Form that is similar to the one currently used by Michigan. We need to discuss this and the process we might use to manage it – should this be left for each association to track and manage? Also, we need to discuss penalties that would be imposed if the process is not followed.

MINNESOTA HOCKEY MEDICAL CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO PLAY

The State of Minnesota requires that a youth athlete must be removed from physical participation in an athletic activity if they exhibit any signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion or is suspected of sustaining a concussion and shall not return to physical activity until he or she no longer exhibits the signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion and has been evaluated by a provider trained and experienced in managing concussions and has provided written clearance to participate in the athletic activity. **This form is to be used after an athlete has been removed from an athletic activity due to a concussion or suspected concussion and a copy is to be provided to the appointed representative of the home association of the involved player.**

Student Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Association and Team: _____ Date of Injury: ____/____/____

Game and location where injury occurred: _____

Nature and extent of injury: _____

Date student no longer exhibited symptoms: ____/____/____

Print Health Professional Name: _____ Title: _____

Note: An appropriate "Health Professional" means a health professional who is licensed, registered, certified or otherwise authorized to provide medical treatment, trained and experienced in evaluating and managing pediatric concussions, and practicing within that person's medical training and scope of practice.

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE ABOVE NAMED STUDENT TO RETURN TO ATHLETIC ACTIVITY FOR FULL PARTICIPATION WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

[End of Rules Committee Report]