

Rules Committee Report 2017 Summer Meeting

rev. 1 5/18/17



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.
Modifications to the Youth Rules are proposed as shown below.

Youth Rules Changes

R1. At the recent Spring Meeting, the Board decided to make the Girls 15U pilot program permanent. This involves changing 14U to 15U in various places in the Bylaws and Youth Rules, which will be done. Some additional verbiage is proposed as shown below:

[preface to Youth Rules]

[R1]

For the purposes of these rules and regulations, Youth Midget and Youth 16&Under (Jr Gold 16) classifications follow all provisions specified for the Youth Jr Gold classification, Girls 19&Under and 16&Under classifications follow all provisions specified for the Youth Jr Gold classification, Girls 15&Under and Girls 14&Under classifications follow all provisions specified for the Youth Bantam classification, Girls 12&Under classification follows all provisions specified for the Youth Peewee classification, Girls 10&Under classification follows all provisions specified for the Youth Squirt classification and Girls 8&Under classification follows all provisions specified for the Youth Mite classification.

R2. The District Directors decided at the Spring Meeting to expand the conditions under which a back-up goalie may participate in region and state tournaments. Previously only injury was covered, but there may be other reasons why the normal goalie is unavailable. At USAH National Tournaments they are called "Emergency Back Up Goalies" or "E-Bugs" which seems more fitting than "Spare Goalie."

VI. TEAM COMPOSITION

[R2]

C. It is recommended that each team in the state and region tournaments dress two goalies. If the team does not have two goalies, a ~~SPARE~~ an Emergency Backup Goalie ("**E-BUG**") may be chosen from a team in its league or association, and such a ~~spare goalie~~ an E-BUG may be chosen from the same or a lower but not higher playing division.

1. Failing the above, a ~~spare~~ an E-BUG may be chosen from within the team's district or finally from the vicinity in which the tournament is being played.
2. ~~Such a "spare" goalie~~ The E-BUG may play ONLY in the case of injury to the regular goalie is unable to play, as determined by the tournament host District Director or Tournament Director.
3. The ~~spare~~ an E-BUG shall wear the light or dark jersey of the in-season team on which they are rostered.
4. The ~~spare~~ E-BUG retains their eligibility with their parent team or organization at their original classification for the balance of the playing season whether or not they actually play as a ~~spare~~ an E-BUG.
5. The ~~spare~~ E-BUG must be properly registered on a MH team for the current season to be eligible to participate in a region or state tournament. Proof of registration, such as...

R3. The following change would put emphasis towards skill development, increase player retention, keep the game fun and reduce the potential for injuries at the Bantam "C" level.

VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

- A. "Classifications" means Mite, Squirt, Peewee, 10&Under, 12&Under, Junior Gold, etc.
- B. "Divisions" means A, B, C, House, etc.
- C. To encourage development and expansion of hockey within the State and to provide for uniformity of competition, all youth hockey shall be divided into five competitive divisions as herein provided. Each District Director has the responsibility to maintain the integrity of each division within his/her district.
- "A" The highest competitive division, essentially a development program designed to enhance team and individual skills. MH will provide for district, region and state tournament competition at this division. Every association shall have the right to enter teams in the A division.
- "B" The intermediate competitive division, also essentially a development program, but primarily intended to provide a uniform competitive experience for smaller communities and programs that are not able to compete effectively at the A division. Every association that has an A division team shall also have the right to enter teams in the B division.
- "C" The lowest competitive division, also intended as an entry level for new communities and programs in order to provide a good competitive experience until they are ready to advance to a higher competitive division. There shall be no region or state tournaments at the C level. All associations that have teams in A or B divisions shall also be entitled to enter teams in the C level. **Body Checking is prohibited in all "C" level competition.**
- "House" Similar to "C", but limited to an in-house program (no participation outside of the association).
- "Recreational" Similar to "C", but limited to two activities per week (maximum) within a recreational league or organization (teams do not participate in any way outside of their recreational league or organization). No tournaments are allowed at this level, but a year-end playoff is permitted.

R4. We had a problem at a Jr. Gold game where a player received his 3rd penalty, and went to the penalty box rather than leaving the ice. This created problems later where the player was deemed to have "participated" by being in the penalty box and on the bench. The District Directors asked that we clarify the language to indicate that a Jr. Gold player receiving his third penalty must be removed from the game – not to the penalty box; not to the bench.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

- G. At the Junior Gold and 16 & Under classification, a Game Ejection shall be automatically assessed when a player receives a third penalty during a single game. **The player shall immediately be removed from the ice and another player shall serve the penalty.** Enforcing this penalty is the joint responsibility of the referees, the scorekeeper, the coach and the player.
1. If it is determined during a game that a team allowed a player to continue to participate after receiving their third penalty, the game will be immediately forfeited to the other team.
 2. A completed game may be protested if it is suspected that a team allowed a player to continue to participate after receiving their third penalty. The protest must be filed with the proper authority within one hour for tournament games, and within 24 hours for league games. The protesting party must provide evidence to substantiate this claim. If verified, the subject game will be forfeited.

R5. The Concussion Management Subcommittee investigated the concussion issue and made recommendations regarding proposed rule changes. These were discussed at the Spring Meeting and further reviewed by the Rules Committee. Since the two forms are referenced in the proposed rule, they will be considered subsidiary Governing Documents linked to the Youth Rules. These proposed changes are ready for Board consideration.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

K. Concussions – Minnesota Statute 121A.37 requires the following:

1. MH must make concussion information accessible to all coaches, officials, players and parents/guardians, including the effects and risks of continuing to play after receiving a concussion. This includes the nature and risks of concussions associated with athletic activity, concussion symptoms, the need for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a player is suspected or observed to have received a concussion, and the concussed players to follow proper medical direction before returning to play. All coaches and officials must receive initial training regarding concussions and participate in refresher training ~~at least once every three calendar years~~ **year** thereafter. **Each coach shall complete and provide a coach concussion acknowledgement form to the association prior to participating in any team activities.**

2. Coaches, officials and/or medical attendants shall and are authorized to remove a player from participating if the player exhibits concussion signs, symptoms or behaviors, or is suspected of sustaining a concussion. A player removed from participation for this reason may not again participate until they no longer exhibit concussion signs, symptoms or behaviors and a "health care provider" evaluates the player and gives the player written permission to again participate. "Health care provider" means a health care professional who is registered, licensed, certified or otherwise statutorily authorized by the state to provide medical treatment, and is practicing within their training and experience to evaluate and manage pediatric concussions.

3. A head coach or coach in charge of any team activity who has knowledge of a player sustaining a concussion or exhibiting concussion type symptoms shall complete a Minnesota Hockey Concussion Reporting and Return to Play form relating to the injury and ensure that the form is delivered to the team manager within 48 hours of receipt of information that a player sustained a concussion or exhibited concussion type symptoms. The team manager shall provide a copy of the report to the player's parent or legal guardian and association president or other delegated representative tasked with monitoring reports under this rule. Until the completed Return to Play portion of the form is received by the team manager or coach, the coach and team manager shall ensure that the player does not participate in any team physical activities. A completed Return to Play form shall be kept by the team manager during the season and a copy provided to the USA Hockey Minnesota District Risk Manager and association president or delegated representative at the end of the year.

4. The penalty for a knowing violation of this rule by a coach who fails to report a concussion or symptoms of a concussion, fails to timely complete and return a Minnesota Hockey Concussion Reporting and Return to Play form, or allows a player removed from team activities as a result of a concussion or who exhibited concussion type symptoms to participate in team physical activities prior to receipt of a signed medical clearance shall be as follows: (a) for a first violation the coach shall be suspended for the next two games and any events between the two games; (b) for a second violation the coach shall be suspended for two weeks; and (c) for a third violation the coach shall be suspended for a full calendar year.

[R5]

MINNESOTA HOCKEY COACH CONCUSSION CERTIFICATION

I have completed training or an annual update to previous training regarding concussions. Attached to this certification is evidence of my completion of the required annual training. I understand what a concussion is and what are the common signs, symptoms and behaviors associated with concussion and concussion type symptoms. I agree I will remove an athlete from all team physical activities if a player sustains a concussion or exhibits concussion type symptoms. I understand it is my responsibility to complete a Minnesota Hockey Concussion Reporting and Medical Clearance To Return To Play Form within 48 hours of receipt of information which indicates a player has sustained a concussion or exhibits concussion type symptoms. I understand that I cannot allow a player to return to team physical activities until I have received a completed Minnesota Hockey Concussion Reporting and Medical Clearance To Return To Play Form which is signed by an appropriate health professional and a parent or legal guardian of the player. I understand that knowingly violating the Youth Rules and Regulations can result in discipline up to and including suspension for up to one year.

Association Name: _____

Coach Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

District: _____

Team Name: _____

NOTE THAT TRAINING CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE THROUGH THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AT:
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>. TRAINING FOR OTHER SPORTS WILL SATISFY THE TRAINING REQUIRED FOR THIS CERTIFICATION.

MINNESOTA HOCKEY CONCUSSION REPORTING AND MEDICAL CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO PLAY FORM

Minnesota statute §121A.37 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 concussion symptoms.**

Player Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

District: _____ Name of person reporting: _____

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

Location of injury/arena: _____

Nature, extent of injuries, and symptoms: _____

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

Print Health Professional Name: _____ Title: _____

Name of Clinic of Health Professional: _____ License number: _____

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 ATHLETE TO RETURN TO ATHLETIC ACTIVITY FOR FULL PARTICIPATION WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

I AM THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE PLAYER IDENTIFIED ON THIS FORM AND I CONSENT TO THEIR RETURN TO ATHLETIC ACTIVITY WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

Parent/legal guardian name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

AT THE END OF THE YEAR A COPY OF THIS FORM SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE AND THE USA HOCKEY RISK MANAGER, MINNESOTA DISTRICT

[End of Rules Committee Report]