



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

To: All Associations and Directors

Re: New Game Count Rule

As you know MAHA passed a rule this past summer that in many cases, especially at the younger levels, lowered the overall game count and sought to provide a better practice-to-game ratio for player development, and helped reduce the total cost of participation. Part of that rule now exempts the games played in District, State, and National tournaments and caps the number of games that count in an invitational tournament at four. In the past, all of these games would have counted against a team's game count.

With all change comes a learning curve. As simple as we thought this was, there have been lots of questions as to how things should be counted. Therefore, we felt it necessary to communicate to all Associations the same answers that we've already provided to those who asked the questions. Please pass these along to your teams.

- ALL games must still be entered on your team game log. MAHA officials will have the responsibility of adjusting your game count for you.
- All scoresheets are still kept and put in your team book. These should match the game log.
- Any type of game misconduct or match penalty still counts, regardless of what game it occurs in. It must be reported or served just like in the past.
- Players or coaches who need to serve suspensions can/must serve them in the next scheduled game. If that is game 5 in a tournament, they must serve it then and it counts as a game served. Just as before, it is to be noted on the scoresheet.
- Tier 2 teams must count all games played against Tier 1 competition and still have 30% of their games or less against Tier 1 competition. For example: Team plays 40 total games. 13 games were played against Tier 1 teams. 6 of those games were in one tournament. The calculation would be 13 games / 40 games or 32.5%, putting them over the limit.
- District play-in games – If your local district schedules / hosts a play-in as part of your Districts, then these games do not count. However, if this is hosted by your association in determining who represents your association at Districts, then these games count against your total.

Bottom line is all games still count just like they always have. They all need to be on scoresheets and in your game log. In order to help you better plan your season, we exempted certain games that might put a team over the game count that are out of their control. For example, a team does very well at a tournament and advances or goes deep into the MAHA playoffs. Because these are not in their control, we exempted them from the overall count they can reach.

We hope this all makes sense. If you have any other questions, please reach out to your district directors and I am sure they can help you with the answer.

George Atkinson
President
Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

