

## INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

- A. All invitational tournaments that involve teams from more than one MH district, including tournaments played outdoors on natural ice, must be sanctioned by MH. If the tournament will include teams from outside MH, then USA Hockey sanction is also required.
- B. An Association and/or a MH District may conduct special events as authorized by the District Director, provided that only teams from within that district participate. In special circumstances, the involved District Directors can approve participation by neighboring associations outside of the District. Special events must follow all rules for sanctioning invitational tournaments except that there is no sanction fee and these events are not subject to the February 1st sanctioning deadline. Any event involving three or more teams, excluding regularly scheduled league games, is considered to be an invitational tournament, unless the teams are all from the same district and/or the event has been authorized as a special event.
- C. The conditions for sanctioning invitational tournaments are as follows:
  1. All teams participating must be registered with USA Hockey or another International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) affiliate such as the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA).
  2. Guaranteed Gate tournaments are allowed, with the understanding that the single team payment includes all tournament entry and spectator admission fees with no additional charges.
  3. Invitational tournaments of the same age group and division cannot be held on the same weekend within a 50 mile radius of a MH state tournament. If more than one ice sheet is available at an arena complex, no invitational tournament may be held at that arena complex on the same weekend that a MH Region or State Tournament is being held. If there is a conflict in dates, Invitational sponsors agree to refund entry fees of all teams which qualify for district, region or state MH tournaments.
  4. Officials must be USAH registered, and USAH playing rules and age classifications as modified by MH must be used.
  5. MH Youth Rules and Regulations paragraphs entitled "Credentials" and "Medical Attention" in the District, Region and State Tournaments section apply to all invitational tournaments.
  6. The MH fee for a MH Affiliate to sanction an invitational tournament is \$100 for each division and classification (e.g. - for a tournament with Squirt A, Peewee A, and Peewee B levels, the sanction fee is \$300). The fee for non-MH-Affiliates is listed on the inside front cover of the Handbook.
  7. If team(s) from outside of MH participate, a USA Hockey invitational tournament sanction fee of \$250 is also required. All teams must be registered with USA Hockey or another IIHF Federation (i.e. Canada). Note that the USA Hockey fee is per tournament, not per division/classification.
  8. The following items must be submitted by a sponsoring MH Association to the cognizant district director or the district tournament coordinator for preliminary approval:
    - a. Completed tournament application on the official MH sanction application form
    - b. Copy of proposed tournament rules, including tournament entry fee information
    - c. Tournament bracketing, with ice times

- d. One check, payable to MH, for each application that includes the MH and USAH sanction fees.

Applications submitted without the above items will be returned. Once preliminarily approved, applications will be forwarded to the MH Tournaments Committee Chair for final approval.

9. Applications to host an invitational tournament must be received by the cognizant District Director or the district tournament coordinator no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled first day of the tournament. Applications will not be accepted after February 1.
10. LATE APPLICATIONS: The MH tournament sanction fee for applications received less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled first day of the tournament will be \$200 for each level. Additionally, sanction applications received less than ten days prior to the start of a proposed tournament are subject to outright rejection or a fine of up to \$500 (in addition to the \$200 per level fee), as determined by the MH Tournaments Committee Chair.
11. Modifications to an approved application (such as changes in tournament rules, ice times, bracketing, or teams participating) must be submitted for review and approval by the MH Tournaments Committee Chair at least ten days prior to the start of the tournament.
12. The completed and approved sanction form and accompanying materials (tournament rules and bracketing) serve as a contract between the sponsoring affiliate and MH/USAH as to how the tournament will be conducted. Un-approved changes to this contract (such as changing brackets, game time, or rule substitutions) will be considered a sanction violation, subject to penalties defined below.
13. Invitational Tournament hosts shall respond within ten business days of the receipt of any application and inform the applicant whether the application is accepted, incomplete, declined or wait listed. Responses shall include the following:
  - a. If incomplete, identify the reason it is deemed incomplete and the date by which any deficiencies are to be corrected.
  - b. If wait listed, the date a final decision will be made to accept or decline the application. If wait listed the applicant shall be allowed to withdraw the application any time before acceptance and receive a full refund.
  - c. If declined, refund of all tournament fees.Acceptance of an application will be deemed a final decision; the host will not be permitted to decline a previously accepted application unless the tournament is cancelled. Penalties for violating this rule, such as excluding the host team, will be determined by the District Director.
14. In the event of a tournament cancellation, notify the District Director or Tournament Coordinator for the district in writing no less than ten days before the start date of the tournament. USAH fees and late fees will not be returned. The host may request a refund of MH tournament fees from the MH Tournaments Committee Chair, in writing, no later than 30 days after the start date of the tournament.
15. Hosting an unsanctioned tournament or violating MH and/or USA Hockey tournament rules will be cause for penalties to the hosting association:
  - a. For the first offense, the association will not be allowed to host invitational tournaments at the division/classification (Bantam A, Peewee B, etc.) at which the violation occurred for the balance of the current season and the following season. Monetary fines may also be assessed.

- b. For the second offense within a three-year period, the association will not be allowed to host or participate in invitational tournaments and MH playoffs at any level for the balance of the current season and the following season. Monetary fines may also be assessed.
- c. In the event that the violation is considered a minor or inadvertent error, a penalty may be reduced at the discretion of the Tournaments Committee Chair and the cognizant District Director.
- d. Penalized Associations may not have another association host tournaments at their sites.

Evaluation of circumstances and assessment of penalties shall be the joint responsibility of the cognizant District Director and the Tournaments Committee Chair. Disputes regarding the penalties to be assessed shall be decided by the Tournaments Committee. Committee decisions shall be considered a “decision of MH”. (Refer to Bylaws Article 7, Board of Directors, District Directors Duties)

- 16. Teams participating in unsanctioned tournaments will be subject to disciplinary action by the District for the balance of that season and the following season, up to and including suspension from MH activities.
- 17. All tournaments hosted and sanctioned by off-season affiliates and non-affiliates shall pay a deposit of \$5,000, per level, at the time of the application for the tournament. The fee shall be forfeited if any rules violation occurs in connection with the conduct of the tournament. The host of the tournament shall provide a profit and loss statement with respect to the conduct of the tournament and shall receive a return of the deposit upon receipt of the profit and loss statement and verification that no rules violations occurred in connection with the tournament

D. EXEMPT EVENTS: Sanction Applications and sanction fees are not required for the following events:

- 1. MN Hockey District, Region, and State Tournaments.
- 2. Events involving teams from a single MN Hockey District, except the involved District Directors can approve participation by neighboring associations outside of the District. The rules and bracketing to be used for either of the above events must be provided to the Tournaments Committee Chair or the District Director.
- 3. Special Events involving up to 6 teams are allowed, subject to following criteria:
  - a. All teams must be MH-registered teams. No non-MH teams except with District Director approval.
  - b. All play between teams is PREDETERMINED. All teams will be aware of every team they will be playing and when, prior to first game of the event.
  - c. Subsequent play between teams is not determined by results of prior games.
  - d. No team event points are accumulated as a result of games.
  - e. No awards for teams or individual players.
  - f. All rules regarding team rest and number of on-ice events will be followed
  - g. Participating teams will provide necessary volunteers to assist with the game. Host association may not charge for off ice officials unless that is their common practice.
  - h. No gate entry fees may be assessed to participating teams or spectators.

- i. All game costs will be divided equally among teams playing.
- j. Host association may charge a nominal administrative fee, not exceeding \$50 per team. This type of event cannot be conducted as a fundraising event.
- k. The Host Association is responsible for:
  - o Keeping complete financial and game format records of the event.
  - o Complete accountability to the cognizant District Director upon request.
  - o Adherence to the rules set forth above. Violations could result in sanctions including not being allowed to play in post-season at the level of the event.

No pre-approval is required to conduct "Special Events". However, complete financial and game format records must be provided to the Tournaments Committee Chair or cognizant District Director on request.

- E. Interstate, National and International tournaments, refer to the MH By-Law Article entitled "Registration" and the Article Entitled "International Competition".
- F. Invitational tournaments shall be scheduled so as to minimize the time a player is away from school. When preparing invitational tournament schedules, every consideration shall be given to schedule games in a manner that does not require a player to miss any school time.
  - 1. Associations hosting invitational tournaments wherein there are games scheduled when school is in session shall advertise this fact in any promotional material used to recruit tournament participants.
  - 2. No team traveling more than fifty miles, one way, from the tournament site shall be required to play a game that starts prior to 6:00 PM on a school day, unless the team indicates their willingness to do so, in writing, on their invitational tournament entry form (e-mail acceptable), and the host team plays in the same or an earlier game on the same day.
  - 3. In the event it becomes necessary to change a tournament schedule and such change requires that a team must involuntarily play a game that will take its players away from school, that team will be allowed to withdraw from the tournament, and any fees paid by that team shall be fully refunded by the tournament host, within seven (7) days after the date of withdrawal.
  - 4. Minnesota Hockey affiliates who authorize others within their affiliate to conduct sanctioned tournaments shall be responsible for compliance with this rule.
  - 5. Tournament host associations who violate this rule, or any portion thereof, will lose tournament sanctioning privileges and/or the right to host a Minnesota Hockey tournament for a period of not less than one (1) year from the end of the season in which the violation occurred. Violations could also result in monetary fines to the Association(s).