

Rules Committee Report 2019 Spring Meeting

rev. 1 3/5/19



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Wednesday, February 27, 2019. Modifications to the Bylaws, Youth Rules, Jr Gold ages and Conflict of Interest Policy are proposed below.

Bylaw Changes

B1. Minnesota Hockey passed a moratorium on new School Affiliate Agreements in Feb 2018, which expires in August 2019. Language has been developed to be inserted in Bylaw Article 5 as shown below to deal with this issue.

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.

[B1] **B. Except for existing teams and programs in place at the end of the 2018-19 Season*, no Association may form a Team registered by the Association for reasons other than age (Classification), skill (Division) or gender (Youth, Girls). All Players who are otherwise eligible for a Team shall be allowed to register and tryout for the team(s). This rule shall not apply to mite, U8, or mini-mite teams which may be formed on a geographic or school attendance basis.**

C. 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.

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, and women hockey players only. (Refer to Youth Rules and Regulations and to Women's Operating Rules)

~~B.E.~~ **E.** 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.

~~E.F.~~ **F.** MH registered teams shall not participate with teams that are not registered with USAH or...

*** Modified by Chairman after the Rules Committee Meeting**

B2. The Grievance Committee requested that Appeals be accompanied by a Filing Fee, refundable if the appeal is upheld. Also, need to reword the definition of what can be appealed.

ARTICLE 6 – AUTHORITY, APPEALS, SUSPENSIONS & COURT ACTIONS

[B2] **E. Appeals:** Any member, team, league or local association who has a standing in the matter may appeal a disciplinary suspension, **action** or administrative action, in writing, to the District Director for a period of ten (10) calendar days, after a decision was rendered or a Hearing refused within its own league or association. Such appeal must state that it is an appeal, and provide the rationale, citing the applicable rule or regulation, as to why the disciplinary suspension or administrative action should be overturned or modified. In all appeals, the appealing party is required to establish the merits of the appeal. The District Director shall make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a valid appeal. The decision of the District Director may be appealed for a period of ten (10) calendar days to the MH Grievance Committee (**"Committee"**) **Chairperson; the Committee** which must make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a written appeal **and receipt of a \$200 Filing Fee that is refundable if the Committee rules in the appealing party's favor.** The decision of the Committee shall be final except as noted in the paragraph hereinafter titled "USAH Appeal". Exception: Suspensions under USAH Bylaw 10 (3)(d) Assault of Game Official are appealed directly to the MH Grievance Committee.

B3. Need to further define membership, voting and authority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: The officers of this corporation shall be Directors at Large of the Board of Directors and shall be the President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and not more than four Vice Presidents. Officers may be selected from the membership of the Board or any adult resident of Minnesota who supports and can further the purposes of the corporation. Separate elections shall be held for each open position, with the successful candidate being the person receiving at least a simple majority of the votes cast. If a simple majority is not reached, the candidate receiving the least votes shall be dropped and the position re-voted. The officers shall have such powers and duties as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

[B3] ~~Such officers along with two District Directors appointed by the President shall constitute the Executive Committee.~~ An officer may also be an elected member of the Board of Directors but such officer shall be entitled to only one vote.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, the four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, two District Directors appointed by the President, and the Legal Advisor who shall be a non-voting member. The President shall have the ability to call meetings of the Executive Committee and seek guidance from the Executive Committee to assist in carrying out the duties and powers of the office of the President. The Executive Committee oversees the Conflict of Interest Policy. The Executive Committee shall not have the power to make expenditures in excess of \$25,000.

Youth Rules Changes

R1. Modify the Participation Policy to indicate that the geographical boundaries assigned to local associations and recorded in the Affiliate agreements are exclusive. Do we need to acknowledge existing agreements that are not in accordance with this?

IV. PARTICIPATION

[R1] A. PARTICIPATION POLICY: MH is a community-based amateur hockey program. Members in good standing are to participate on teams from their local association (local affiliate) based on the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The **exclusive** boundaries of the geographical area served by each local association are determined by MH and recorded in the Affiliate Agreements. In some circumstances, players may participate in another association by requesting a formal waiver from this policy.

R2. Have had some issues with tournaments accepting more applications than they have room for, and then sending regrets letters to teams they decide to reject. Propose to add para. 13 below:

XI. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

C. The conditions for sanctioning invitational tournaments are as follows:

[R2] **13. The host of an Invitational Tournament 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, the reason it is deemed incomplete shall be identified 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.

The acceptance of any application will be deemed a final decision; the host will not be permitted to decline a previously accepted application unless the tournament is cancelled.

[Modified by the President and Committee Chairman after the Rules Committee Meeting]

Age Change

AC1. Historically, the Jr Gold classification was a 4-year window covering all Youth participants older than Bantams and still in High School. Many programs with Jr Gold A & B teams use this entire 4-year window for their teams. With the advent of Jr Gold 16, we created a sub-set that was exclusively for players 16 & Under according to our age brackets. Although it was not our intent to restrict these 16 & Under players from participating on Jr. Gold A or B teams, the way the ages are shown on pg. 2 of the Handbook, it is technically a play-up, which invokes several MH and Association Rules/Policies. It is proposed to restate the ages on pg 2 to show Jr. Gold as a 4-year inclusive window, and Jr. Gold 16 as a two-year subset.

PROPOSED MH AGE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR THE 2019-20 SEASON

	Youth/Adult		Girls/Women	
Adult	6/30/00	and older	Women	12/31/99 and older
[AC1] Junior Gold	7/1/00	to 6/30/04	19 & Under	1/1/00 to 6/30/03
Junior Gold 16	7/1/02	to 6/30/04		
MN Bantam	7/1/04	to 6/30/06	MN 15U (13/14/15)	7/1/03 to 6/30/06
MN Peewee	7/1/06	to 6/30/08	MN 12U (11/12)	7/1/06 to 6/30/08
MN Squirt	7/1/08	to 6/30/10	MN 10U (9/10)	7/1/08 to 6/30/10
MN Mite	7/1/10	to 6/30/12	MN 8U	7/1/10 and younger
MN Mini-Mite	7/1/12	and younger		

Conflict of Interest Policy

CII. Update Conflict of Interest Policy to Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy. Refer to attachment.

[End of Rules Committee Report]