

Rules/Discernment Committee
April 25, 2009
Crowne Plaza

Discernment

It appears that there has been a change of heart from the directors on whether or not they want to make the suggested changes to the residency rule. They are elected by their associations to represent them and the associations are saying that they do not want the directors to approve the rule change.

Issues:

- Associations may establish policies regarding participation conditions for players that waive into their affiliate.
- Why don't we just change the rule completely to say that you play where you got to school and not where you live? Are we creating a two class system that allows kids to choose whether they play where they live or where they open enroll into another school?
- Dennis Green asked everyone to look at this change from a parents and players perspective. Are we doing what they want us to do?
- Are the waivers now for one year only or are the permanent? Permanent was taken out and the waivers have to be renewed each year.

The residency rule change will not be voted on until the June meeting when more people are satisfied with what the committee has come up with for the change.

Motion from Director Nagan and second from Director Hewitt that the Residency Rule be removed from agenda for the Sunday board meeting. Motion carried.

Rules Committee Report

The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Saturday February 14, 2009.

The Committee discussed how to allocate Adult Men, Adult Women, High School Boys and High School Girls votes for the Minnesota District elections. Dennis Green attended the meeting and explained what the issue is. Carol Carlson was not sure if she could break out the votes in the manner requested [i.e. separating HS Girls that are playing on HS Boys teams, HS-aged Girls that are playing on Shattuck, Thoroughbred or 19U teams (not HS), Adult Women that are playing on "Adult" (Men's) teams, etc.], other than trying to go through it manually. This was left that the issue would be discussed at the upcoming spring meeting in Carol's registrar meeting. Based on that outcome, the board will have to make a decision on which direction they want to go.

The Conflict of Interest Policy is being handled by Jerry DeMeo, so the Rules Committee took no action on it.

The Committee discussed Youth Rules, Section III "Age Regulations", Para. D regarding the prohibition on waived players from playing up to the next age division. Since this was considered to be linked to the present Residency Rule discussions, no action was taken. It will be reconsidered once the Residency Rule matter is resolved.

The Committee discussed a question raised by Mark Jorgensen regarding representation of coaches and referees in the USA Hockey voting process. It was determined that the Referees are not considered "participants" by USAH, so are not entitled to be represented in the USAH voting

process. Coaches are included in the District participant counts, and are represented by their District Directors.

The Committee discussed a proposal allowing changes to “C” and Mite team rosters after December 31st. It was determined that this can be done under the present policies.

Recreational Hockey and the definition in the USAH Annual Guide were discussed briefly. We will probably need to make some rule adjustments in the future to accommodate Recreational Hockey, but we are not prepared to make recommendations on that now.

The Committee proposes the following modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules:

Bylaws Changes

B1. The proposal as submitted stated that the Director Emeritus position should be reserved for only the most deserving individuals who have and will continue to provide meaningful participation in MH. The intent of the proposal is to prevent nominating and electing Directors Emeritus based solely on the emotion associated with the end of their term on the MH Board.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director Emeritus: The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint one or more persons to the position of Director Emeritus in recognition of distinguished and lengthy service to this Association. A Director Emeritus shall be a non-voting member of the board, but in all other respects shall be entitled to all of the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of other Board members. A candidate for Director Emeritus must be nominated by an active member of the Board of Directors and requires $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes cast for election. **In the case of an outgoing MH Board member, there must be a waiting period of at least 180 consecutive days from the date of completion of their term on the MH Board.**

[B1]

B2. This change to the definition of the Executive Committee is required to comply with the Bylaw change approved last year requiring two District Directors to be on most committees.

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: The officers of this corporation, when elected, shall be Directors at Large of the Board of Directors and shall be the President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary/Treasurer, not more than six Vice Presidents, and a Controller. Such officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting for three (3) year terms. 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
[B2] Directors. Such officers along with two District Directors appointed by the President and 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.

Youth Rules and Regulations Changes

R1. The Discernment Committee has met several times to discuss proposed Residency Rule changes. The Discernment Committee's goal is to formulate a very clear rule that all District Directors will accept and follow. To promote state-wide uniformity in the application of the rule, individual District waiver policies should not be necessary or permitted.

The rationales for the provisions included in the rule have been documented in the Discernment Committee Reports. The Rules Committee's involvement has been strictly to propose changes to the rule in accordance with the direction of the Discernment Committee.

IV. RESIDENCY (current rule)

6. RESIDENCY POLICY

MH is a community-based amateur hockey program. Players are to participate on teams from their local association based on the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the established MH affiliate boundaries.

B. RESIDENCY RULE

1. Youth Hockey players must play within the affiliate boundaries as defined by MH. If a player desires to play on a team outside of the player's affiliate boundary, the player must obtain written permission (waiver) from the president of governing body of both the releasing and receiving organization and receive the approval of the cognizant district director(s). A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Refer to the Section entitled Eligibility Provisions. A waiver must be obtained before a player can participate outside their affiliate boundary. A player that registers or participates with their affiliate cannot participate with any other affiliate without a waiver. The Minnesota Department of Education Open Enrollment program does not in any way affect interpretation of this rule.
2. A player may appeal in writing to the cognizant District Director who, after investigation, will issue a ruling. The decision of the District Director is final. Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.
3. Players having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must also conform to the residency rule.

IV. RESIDENCY (proposed rule)

6. RESIDENCY POLICY

MH is a community-based amateur hockey program. **It is intended that** players participate on teams from their local **affiliate** based on the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the established MH affiliate boundaries **as defined in the Affiliate Agreements.** **In some circumstances players may participate in another affiliate by waiver.**

B. RESIDENCY RULE

1. Youth Hockey players must **register and** play within **their resident** affiliate boundaries as defined by MH. If a player desires to play on a team outside of the player's affiliate boundary, the player must obtain **a waiver.**

a. All waiver requests must be submitted on the official multiple-copy MH Waiver Form.

b. Any conditions that apply to a waiver must be indicated on the Waiver Form.

c. Waiver Forms must be signed by the releasing and receiving affiliate presidents before being submitted to the District Director(s) for approval.

2. Waivers will be granted in any of the following circumstances, in accordance with B-1 above:

a. The presidents of the releasing and receiving MH affiliates support a waiver.

b. A player is participating on a combined team of two or more affiliates by the affiliates' agreement.

c. A player wishes to participate in the MH affiliate where the school in which the player is enrolled and attending is located. This type of waiver is conditional in that attendance must continue through the season.

3. Affiliates may establish policies regarding participation conditions for players that waive into their affiliate.

4. A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Refer to the Section entitled Eligibility Provisions. A waiver must be obtained before a player can participate outside their **home** affiliate boundary. A player that registers or participates with their **home** affiliate cannot participate with any other affiliate without a waiver.

5. A player **who is denied a waiver by his/her home affiliate** may appeal in writing to the **responsible** District Director who, after investigation, will issue a ruling. The decision of the District Director is final. Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.

6. Players having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must also conform to the residency rule.

Motion by Gerry Brown and second by Carol Carlson to remove the Residency Rule from a vote on Sunday.

Jim Bullard asked the rules committee to look at the Don Clark Award as to whether or not it can go to two people.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM