



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

September 24, 2014

To: All MAHA Directors, Associations and Clubs

Re: Teams Exceeding Out of District Players on Rosters.

There seems to be some confusion as to a team's ability to roster with more than the 3 (Bantam Classification and below) or 6 (Midget Classification) out-of-district players. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the rules for those who do not understand them.

Under Rule V- Age Classifications – Definitions and Rules - It is clearly stated in section M on pages 29 & 30 that teams may not have more than 3 or 6 out-of-district players depending on their age classification as stated above.

I think the part of the rulebook everyone is missing here is sections N & O under rule V.

N.) All (B) and (BB) teams needing a ruling or exception to make the team eligible to play in leagues, tournaments, Districts, and States must submit their requests (through their District Councils first) to the State Playoff Committee for disposition.

O.) All Youth: Tier I (AAA), Tier II (AA), (A) and Girl's Tier I and Tier II teams not meeting the age and division classification rules are ineligible to play in leagues, tournaments, Districts, States and Nationals.

It is very clear here that B & BB teams are extended some latitude, as they are required to take all players who want to sign up. A & AA teams get to select their players, and it is very clear in O. that they are ineligible to play in leagues tournaments or Districts, States and Nationals if they are not in compliance.

Section X of the rulebook pertains to Eligibility for District and State Playoffs. Section C of that rule states any team can apply for an exception to the eligibility rules. This rule only applies to eligibility for District and State Playoffs. Even if an A or AA team was granted an exception for the playoffs they would still be ineligible for league play and to play in tournaments.

Our past practices have allowed teams to roster even though they do not meet the requirements. Reviewing the rules, I would say that we should not be doing that. Regardless, we have already processed some rosters for the season. All the A & AA team that are out of compliance should have had the note added that they are ineligible to play in leagues, tournaments, Districts, States and Nationals. These teams should be notified that failure to comply with that note can lead to disciplinary action for the coach of that team. If they choose to continue out of compliance, they will **ONLY** be allowed to schedule and play exhibition games for this season.

B & BB teams should be told they need to apply for an exception per section N above and they will be allowed to play pending deposition by the State Playoff Committee.

I hope this helps to clarify these rules for everyone. Those currently out of compliance should get into compliance immediately.

George Atkinson
President
Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

