

Rules Committee Report 2016 Winter Meeting

rev. 1 12/11/2015



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015.

Our Inter-Affiliate Transfer Protocol currently allows us to waiver players to another state affiliate if they desire to play on a Tier 1 National Tournament Eligible team. We considered changing this since we are now offering off-season Tier I programs that will send teams to the Tier 1 National Tournaments. The Committee decided to not change the language because the current protocol indicates the waiver will be granted if Minnesota Hockey does not offer such a program, and that language meant that transfers would still be allowed if a player was seeking to go to a program that was different than something Minnesota Hockey provided. We can look at this again if this turns out to be a problem later.

We have had some cases where players who are residents of other states live with MN families and attend school in MN. If they are here for the purpose of playing hockey it could be considered a billet arrangement. We previously strengthened verbiage around "legal guardian" to respond to MN residents who are living with someone else. The Committee concluded that these players are governed by the participation rule the same as other players. Players are defined to be living in the community in which the parent, legal guardian or custodian of the player resides who has primary custody of the player the majority of time when tryouts begin.

Another situation arose where a player registered with her association of residence, went through try outs and didn't make the "A" team. She had been attending school in another area for two years so wanted to exercise her right to a "mandatory waiver" to participate there. Participation Rule Para. 6 says that once you participate in any association, you are basically declaring your "Home Association" for the season. We also are clear that "trying out" in an association is considered participation. Any waiver after that point (for that season) must be discretionary. The Committee feels we already have this covered.

There was a question as to whether we had defined "quorum" for our meetings. Bylaw Article 7 – Board of Directors covers this (last paragraph).

Modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules are proposed as shown below.

Bylaws Changes

B1. Changes are proposed to establish a minimum requirement for attending meetings of the Board of Directors, and the consequence for failure to meet the minimum:

ARTICLE 9 – MEETINGS

Board of Directors Meetings: It is the normal obligation of all voting members to attend official meetings of the Board of Directors. Attendance/ representation is expected for all days of MH state meetings. **Failure for voting members to attend at least two Regularly Scheduled Board of Directors Meetings in a fiscal year will result in automatic consideration for removal (refer to paragraph entitled "Removal of Officers and Directors").**

[B1]

B2. Add "Advisory Board Members" to the "Removal of Officers and Directors" section and define "proper notice":

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[B2] **Removal of Officers and Directors:** Any officer, ~~or~~ director or Advisory Board Member may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the entire Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, with ~~proper~~ 30 days written notice to the persons involved.

Youth Rules Changes

R1. The current "ineligible player" definition presently covers all on-ice activity (including practices). The penalty for this is that the team is suspended from District/Region/State tournaments. The Rules Committee is proposing that the suspension only apply to games.

V. – ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS

[R1] A. Any team found to have an ineligible player that participates in any MH sanctioned ~~on-ice activity~~ game will be suspended from MH District, Region and State Tournament play for the current season. The head coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player shall, as a minimum, be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season. These suspensions may be reviewed by the cognizant District Director to determine if the severity of the suspension is appropriate and a less severe penalty may be imposed if the facts so dictate.

R2. The Tier 1 Committee has asked that the Tier 1 teams be exempt from the Stop Patch requirement. Also need to update the verbiage on Advanced Teams to High Performance Teams.

VIII. – PLAYING RULES

[R2] M. A blaze orange "Stop Patch" must be displayed in the upper center on the back of all players' jerseys in all Youth and Girl's classifications, except Tier 1 Youth 16U/18U, Tier 1 Girls 16U/19U, Mites and Mini Mites. This includes the MH ~~Advanced~~ High Performance 15, 16, 17 and Great 8 teams. This patch/logo may be sewn or silk-screened on the jerseys.

[End of Rules Committee Report]