

Rules Committee Report 2016 Summer Meeting

rev. 1 6/1/16



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.
Modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules are proposed as shown below.

Bylaws Changes

B1. Remove the Regional Vice Presidents from the appeal process (Grievance Committee)

ARTICLE 6 – AUTHORITY, APPEALS, SUSPENSIONS & COURT ACTIONS

E. Appeals: Any member, team, league or local association who has a standing in the matter may appeal a disciplinary suspension 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, in writing, for a period of ten (10) calendar days to the cognizant Maroon or Gold Vice President, who will issue a written ruling within twelve (12) calendar days. Any decision of the Divisional Vice President~~ may be appealed for a period of ten (10) calendar days to the MH Grievance Committee which must make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a written appeal. The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final except as noted in the paragraph hereinafter titled "USAH Appeal".

F. Appeal Process:

1. The District Director, ~~Regional Vice President~~ and Grievance Committee may make their determination by holding personal meetings, or communicating through the mail, e-mail or conference call(s).
2. The "Hearing" format is not typically used for appeals, since the intent.

B2. Allow Board Members that will be absent from Board Meetings to submit votes in writing.

ARTICLE 9 – MEETINGS

Voting: In accordance with the Article entitled "Board of Directors" hereinbefore, each Board member is entitled to one vote, excluding Board members indicated as "non-voting". Individuals holding multiple voting positions on the Board are entitled to a single vote. ***In the event that a Board Member is unable to attend a Board Meeting, votes on established agenda items may be submitted to the Secretary in advance in writing (e-mail is acceptable) at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Such votes are valid so long as the item being considered is substantially the same as indicated on the agenda or in the wording of submitted proposal(s). Absent members submitting their vote(s) in writing do not count for the purpose of establishing a quorum.***

B3. Better define "participants" as related to District Director elections.

ARTICLE 17 – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

5. District Directors shall be elected for 3-year terms by the affiliate representatives in the district. Elections are conducted by giving each representative a weighted vote based on the number of in season registered ~~participants~~ ***players and coaches.***

Youth Rules Changes

R1. Add an eligibility provision similar to MSHSL that allows 9th Graders to change schools without penalty. MSHSL Bylaws indicate that transfer students are eligible for varsity competition if they are enrolling in 9th grade for the first time.

IV. PARTICIPATION

5. Changing Schools

- a. Players who change schools without a related change of residence shall elect one of the following:
 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any division in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at all except the highest division in their new Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school

Exception: Players enrolling in 9th Grade for the first time are immediately eligible to compete at any division in their new Association of School Attendance.

R2. Some players with July/August birthdates start school on time, and they typically want to play up with their classmates. We tell the ass'ns that they are to have a policy on playing up and the conditions that apply. Unfortunately, some associations have policies preventing them from playing up. These players will only have one year of Bantams before they are in 10th Grade. This proposed change would require ass'n policies to permit play-ups in these situations.

VI. TEAM COMPOSITION

D. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS - Teams are to be formed observing the established age classifications, with players following the age range established for each classification. Each association shall have a policy on whether players are allowed to "play up" to the next classification and the conditions which apply. **These Association policies must make accommodations for players with July/August birthdates that start school on time so they can participate with their classmates if they desire to do so.** Players waived to another association are not allowed to play up unless approved by both association presidents and the cognizant District Director(s). Two-thirds (2/3) of the players on teams at the Squirt level and above must be within the age classification in which the team is registered. Exception: In case of low player numbers, players from multiple age groups may be combined on a single team, with the approval of the cognizant District Director and the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar.

R3. The Girls League Committee has requested that interlevel play be allowed between 15UA and 15UB teams at invitational tournaments, similar to the current provision for Jr Gold 16 and Jr Gold B teams.

VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

D. **Interlevel Play** There shall be no interlevel play (games or exhibition games) between classifications (Peewee vs. Bantam, 14U vs. 12U) or between divisions (A vs. B, B vs. C or A vs. C teams), with the exception of Jr Gold 16 vs. Jr Gold B, and 14U A vs. B. In special circumstances where interlevel play between divisions is appropriate, approval of the affected District Director(s) must be obtained. Interlevel play is not permitted in invitational tournaments or MH playoff tournaments, with the exception that Jr Gold 16 teams may participate in Jr Gold B invitational tournaments **and 15UB teams may participate in 15UA invitational tournaments.** Teams violating this provision may be declared ineligible to compete in any invitational tournaments and in MH district, region and state tournaments for the current season, and, in case of flagrant violations, for such further period of time as the district director shall deem appropriate. House league and city recreational league teams must be registered as C teams if they intend to play other teams outside of their hockey community. District Directors may permit a B or C division team from small cities or newly developed programs to play in a higher division league if there is no comparable division league available.

R4. At the Spring Meeting, we changed the date at which full-ice Mite games could begin from Dec 31 to Jan 31. This proposed change would move the date back to Dec 31.

VII. LEVELS OF PLAY

[R4] 5. At the Mite (8&Under) level – the standard playing surface for all games is cross or half-ice. Recognizing that associations may want to deviate from the standard, after ~~January~~ **December** 31st up to six full ice games are allowed with the District Director's approval. The Director's decision is final.

R5. The District directors would like to expand the Jr. Gold Three-Game Suspension For Fighting rule to all levels. Additionally, remove a sentence indicating that USAH Playing Rules for Midgets also apply to Junior Gold.

VIII. PLAYING RULES

- [R5]
- D. No jewelry except for religious/medical needs. Tape medals to the body under the uniform so not visible. Penalty: first offense, warning. Returning to the game without correction: Game Misconduct.
 - E. The penalty for fighting ~~in the Junior Gold and 16 & Under classification~~ for the first offense will be the remainder of the game **and a three (3) game suspension** ~~plus 3 games~~. For a second violation the player will be **suspended from all participation for the remainder of the season**. ~~removed from the program. All provisions in the USAH Official Playing Rules that apply to the Midget age classification and younger shall also apply to the Junior Gold and 16 & Under classification except as modified by MH.~~ **This penalty applies to district, exhibition and tournament games played in Minnesota.**
 - F. At the Junior Gold and 16 & Under classifications, a Game Ejection may be called on any player/team official. A player/team official receiving this penalty will be removed only from the game being played.

R6. There have been requests to further clarify who is authorized to OK a concussed player returning to the game. This proposal would provide additional language to be more specific about who is "experienced in evaluating and managing pediatric concussions".

VIII. PLAYING RULES

K. Concussions – Minnesota Statute 121A.37 requires the following:

- [R6]
1. MH must make concussion information accessible to all coaches, officials, players and parents/guardians, including the effects and risks of continuing to play after receiving a concussion. This includes the nature and risks of concussions associated with athletic activity, concussion symptoms, the need for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a player is suspected or observed to have received a concussion, and the need for concussed players to follow proper medical direction before returning to play. All coaches and officials must receive initial training regarding concussions and participate in refresher training at least once every three calendar years thereafter.
 2. Coaches, officials and/or medical attendants shall and are authorized to remove a player from participating if the player exhibits concussion signs, symptoms or behaviors, or is suspected of sustaining a concussion. A player removed from participation for this reason may not again participate until they no longer exhibit concussion signs, symptoms or behaviors and a "health care provider" evaluates the player and gives the player written permission to again participate. "Health care provider" means a health care professional who is registered, licensed, certified or otherwise statutorily authorized by the state to provide medical treatment, ~~trained and experienced in evaluating and managing~~ **and is practicing within their training and experience to evaluate and manage** pediatric concussions.

R7. *At all Junior Gold levels, do not count 10 minute misconducts assessed with a minor penalty against the game threshold. For example a 2 minute minor + 10 minute misconduct for checking from behind would only count as 2 minutes toward the threshold. In exchange for removing the 10 minute penalty from the count, the Fair Play threshold for Junior Gold would be reduced from 16 min. to 12 min. This change, proposed by the Junior Gold Committee, is not supported by the HEP Committee but is being brought to the Board for a vote.*

VIII. PLAYING RULES

Q. Fair Play

3. Fair Play total “equivalent” penalty minute criteria. (Criteria based on 1 hour games for Peewee/12&Under and below and 1½ hour games for Bantam/14&Under and up.)
- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| a. Squirt | 10 minutes | e. Girls 10&Under | 8 minutes |
| b. Pee Wee..... | 12 minutes | f. Girls 12&Under | 10 minutes |
| c. Bantam | 14 minutes | g. Girls 14&Under | 12 minutes |
| d. Jr. Gold | 16 12 minutes | i. Girls 16&Under and 19&Under | 14 minutes |
4. For the purposes of total Fair Play penalty minutes, the following outlines the penalty “equivalency” minutes associated with each of the following classifications of penalties:
- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|---|--|
| a. Minor/Bench Minor | 2 Minutes | f. Minor plus Misconduct (2 & 10)..... | 12 Minutes |
| b. Major..... | 5 Minutes | <u>g. Minor plus Misconduct (2 & 10) (Junior Gold).... 2 Minutes</u> | |
| c. Misconduct | 10 Minutes | h. Misconduct for no mouth guard..... | 2 Minutes |
| d. Game Misconduct | 10 Minutes | i. Penalty Shot | Equivalent minutes to penalty assessed |
| e. Match..... | 10 Minutes | | |

Note – See special provisions in paragraph C above.

R8. *The Tournaments Committee would like to have teams change goals for Region/State overtime games. This will make things a little more difficult for the teams and potentially end overtimes quicker. USA Hockey uses this rule for their Region/National Tournaments.*

X. DISTRICT, REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

J. BREAKING OF TIES

1. For Region and State Tournament games, the following overtime format shall be used. The teams shall ~~not~~ change goals ~~during the entire overtime~~ **after the third period and stay that way through all overtime periods.**

[End of Rules Committee Report]