

# Rules Committee Report 2018 Fall Meeting

rev. 2 9/4/18



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Monday, August 27, 2018.

Modifications to the Bylaws, Youth Rules and USAH Minnesota District Operating Rules are proposed:

## Bylaws Changes

*B1. Establish an Affiliate Membership fee for Special Group Affiliates of \$250 per team.*

*B2. Strengthen the language regarding members in good standing.*

## ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP

**INDIVIDUAL SUSTAINING MEMBERS:** Interested persons may become individual members by paying annual dues in the amount of \$50. The period of individual membership shall run from June 1 to May 31.

**CORPORATE SUSTAINING MEMBERS:** Interested corporations or unincorporated organizations may become corporate members by payment of annual dues in an amount to be negotiated. Such Corporate Sustaining Members may advertise or make known their affiliation with MH.

[B1] ~~**AFFILIATE MEMBERS:** Any hockey community, association or group whose teams wish to participate in MH must sign a MH affiliate agreement and pay annual fees in an amount established by the Board of Directors to become an affiliate member. The District Director or Director responsible for the group (Juniors, Adults, Women, Disabled, etc.) has the authority to sign the Agreements. In special cases, the President may appoint someone to sign an Affiliate Agreement(s). Affiliate members shall have the right to vote for a director from the district in which the member has been assigned by the Board of Directors. Each affiliate member shall be entitled to select one representative who shall thereupon be a member of this corporation and shall be entitled to cast votes in the District Caucus for the purpose of electing the District Director, according to the affiliate's number of registered participants. Affiliate members may advertise or make known their affiliation with MH.~~

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS:** *Any community-based association, geographically bound, whose teams wish to participate in MH must sign a MH Affiliate Agreement and pay annual fees in an amount established by the Board of Directors to become an Affiliate Member. Affiliate members shall have the right to vote for a director from the district in which the member has been assigned by the Board of Directors. Each affiliate member shall be entitled to select one representative who shall thereupon be a member of this corporation and shall be entitled to cast votes in the District Caucus for the purpose of electing the District Director, according to the affiliate's number of registered participants.*

**SPECIAL GROUP AFFILIATE MEMBERS:** *Any organization, not geographically bound, whose teams wish to participate in MH off-season activities must sign a MH Special Group Affiliate Agreement and pay a \$250 per team annual fee to become a Special Group Affiliate Member. Special Group Affiliate Members shall be represented by the MH Hockey Operations Vice President.*

**AFFILIATE AGREEMENTS:** *The District Director or Director responsible for the group (Juniors, Adults, Women, Disabled, etc.) has authority to sign Affiliate Agreements. The President may appoint someone to sign Affiliate Agreements in special cases. (Also refer to Bylaw Article 11). Affiliate Members and Special Affiliate Members may advertise or make known their affiliation with MH.*

[B2] **MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING:** Only players, coaches and team officials who maintain membership in good standing with their past or present local affiliate will be registered and rostered on MH teams. **In cases of multiple players from a single family [parent(s) or court-appointed legal guardian(s)], all players must be in good standing to be registered, rostered or transferred,**

B3. Appeals of Suspensions under USA Hockey Bylaw 10 (3)(d) Assault of Game Official need to go to the MH Grievance Comm. **It is intended that this change would be effective immediately.**

B4. All summary suspensions by associations, leagues, or District Directors must be approved by the MH SafeSport Coordinator. **It is intended that this change would be effective immediately.**

## ARTICLE 6 - AUTHORITY - APPEALS - SUSPENSIONS - COURT ACTIONS

### A. Authority - Disciplinary Actions - Suspensions:

1. Minnesota Hockey and its Directors, leagues and affiliates have the authority to manage their programs and issue discipline to any party within their jurisdiction. This includes suspension, probation, censure, financial penalty or other forms of discipline.
2. In cases where such discipline leads to a suspension of the party, a Hearing as outlined in this Article is required. Except as modified in this Article, the hearing shall be governed by USAH Bylaw 10.
3. Exclusions: Hearings are not required for automatic playing rule suspensions, suspensions of officials per MHOA Bylaws, or situations outlined in USAH Bylaw 10 "Exclusions From Unified Procedure".
  - a. Video and/or Audio evidence shall be allowed to be submitted as evidence in proceedings of Minnesota Hockey Article 6. Any person offering video or audio evidence shall establish proper foundation for the authenticity and chain of custody of such evidence. Either the hearing panel or any other party may inquire into the foundation and reliability of such evidence. The hearing panel in arriving at a decision may give whatever credibility they believe is appropriate to such evidence.

[B3] **4. Any Summary Suspension (suspension upon receipt of allegations and prior to a full hearing) must be approved by the MH SafeSport Coordinator.**

- 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 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". **Exception: Suspensions under USA Hockey Bylaw 10 (3)(d) Assault of Game Official are appealed directly to the MH Grievance Committee.**

[B4]

B5. Add language indicating the 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. ~~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.

[B5]

**The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, the four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Legal Advisor and two District Directors appointed by the President. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act in matters pertaining to MH policy and operations in an emergency or when it is impossible or impractical to call a special Board of Directors meeting.**

B6. Article 9 under Agenda Items indicates unanimous approval needed to add an item to the agenda. But Article 11 says 2/3 majority is required to do this. Need to make them the same.

## ARTICLE 9 – MEETINGS

### Agenda Items (Excluding changes to the Governing Documents – See Article 11):

- [B6] 4. Any additional items that are to receive consideration of the Board of Directors must receive ~~unanimous~~ 2/3 approval of those present at the Board of Directors meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

## Youth Rules Changes

R1. When players from multiple age groups are combined on a team due to low numbers, it has been interpreted that if one player is just barely too old, that player could play down with the approval of the District Director and District Registrar. This caused grievances last year, and we should probably avoid doing this again. This proposed change would indicate that the team classification cannot be lower than the classification of the oldest player.

## III. CITIZENSHIP AND AGE REGULATIONS

- [R1] 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. 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. **The classification of the combined team shall be at the classification of the oldest player.**

R2. We made a change two yrs ago that took out "change schools without a related change of residence" and replaced with "not living in the attendance area of the school they attend". This was done to prevent somebody moving from Bloomington to Eden Prairie and open-enrolling in Edina with no wait for participating at the highest level. However, we created a problem for somebody that moves from Rochester to Eden Prairie and open-enrolls in Edina. (examples) They should not have to wait a year to play at the highest level. Need to fix this. We will need to discuss how much distance is required to make players immediately fully eligible.

## IV. PARTICIPATION

5. CHANGING SCHOOLS:
- a. Players not living in the attendance area of the school they attend 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 Association of School Attendance for one year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school, with full eligibility thereafter.
- Exception: Players enrolling in 9th Grade for the first time are immediately eligible to compete at any division in their Association of School Attendance.
- [R2] **b. Players who move to a new Residence at least 50 miles distant from their former Residence are eligible to participate at any division in their Association of Residence or Association of School Attendance for one year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school.**

- ~~b.c.~~ Players who have participated in their Association of School Attendance and desire to return to their Association of Residence without a related change of school shall elect one of the following:
1. Have full eligibility to compete at any division with their Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day that they notify in writing both involved associations of their intent to return to their Association of Residence; or
  2. Be eligible at all except the highest division in their Association of Residence for one (1) year beginning with the first day that they notify in writing both involved associations of their intent to return to their Association of Residence.
- ~~e.d.~~ For purposes of this rule, a team that is eligible to participate in "AA" level playoffs at the end of the season will be considered a higher division than a team within the same association that is eligible to participate in "A" level playoffs.
- ~~e.e.~~ Submit unusual circumstances to the District Director Committee for a decision.

*R3. Our rules currently call for an "up to" 30-day suspension to a coach who does not wear a helmet during practice. USAH has now made this a mandatory 30-day suspension. **It is intended to make this change effective immediately.***

## VII. PLAYING RULES

- [R3] O. All coaches involved in on-ice activities, practices and scrimmages must wear a HECC-approved hockey helmet. The chin strap must be buckled at all times. Compliance rests on the local associations and the local District. Failure to comply shall result in ~~up to~~ **a mandatory** 30 day suspension ~~by the District Director.~~

## USAH Minnesota District Operating Rules

*MD1. Add a requirement that the High School Representative will be elected by the Minnesota District, following the same procedure as the USAH Girls' and Women's Section Representative.*

*MD2. Add a requirement that teams intending to participate in the District playoff leading to National Championships must provide 60 days notification in advance of the District Playoff.*

## USAH Minnesota District Operating Rules

- [MD1] 7. The Minnesota District shall select ~~an~~ individuals s to represent the Minnesota District on the USAH Women's [MD1] and Girls' Section **and the High School Section.** ~~This~~ **These** elections will follow the procedure for electing the District Directors.

- [MD2] ~~9. The affiliate must notify the Minnesota District Registrar in writing by October 1 of their intention to participate in regional tournaments that lead to participation in the USAH national tournaments.~~

### **9. Participation in USAH National Tournaments**

- a. **MH** must notify the Minnesota District Registrar in writing by October 1 of its intention to participate in **District Playdowns** that lead to participation in the USAH national tournaments.
- b. **MH affiliates must notify of their intention to participate in the District playoff leading to National Championship 60 days in advance of the District Playoff.**

[End of Rules Committee Report]