Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

MAHA has been asked to provide a clarification statement around two specific Tier III rules.

Youth Tier III teams must adhere to MAHA IV.D.2. which states: “To remain eligible for Districts and States Playoffs, teams may not play more than 30% of their games against teams in a higher category and/or age classification.”

Girls Tier III teams must adhere to MAHA V.C.7 which states: “Teams may not play more than 30% of their games against teams in higher classifications. Coaches and managers found in violation of this rule shall have a recommended suspension of no more than one (1) year.”

The below table outlines which teams are equivalent across youth, girls, and Canadian teams. Games played in their equivalents will not count against the 30% rule, but still count against max game count.

Youth	Girls	Canada
10U Tier III	10U Tier III	U11 Rec
12U Tier III	12U Tier III	U13 Rec
14U Tier III	14U Tier III	U15 Rec
16U Tier III	16U Tier III	U18 Rec
	19U Tier III	U18 Rec

For those teams looking to participate in District and/or States, teams must also adhere to MAHA IX.2.a which states “… Teams shall only be eligible in the age classification, category, and division in which they play the majority of their games prior to Districts or States.”

The equivalent games outlined in the table above do ***not*** count towards the majority rule to be eligible for Districts or States. Teams are required to submit an exception if they will not be compliant with the rule. The State Playoff Committee understands the potential difficulty to get the appropriate game count and will take the games under advisement during the exception process. Assuming to play these games without submitting an appropriate exception to game count may make a team ineligible for districts and states.

Link to Exceptions: Team/Player Exceptions (maha.org)