

**Minnesota Hockey Planning Committee
Age Change Assessment and Recommendations
January 23, 2010**

History

- Present age brackets (July 1 cutoff) have been in effect for MN Hockey teams since 93-94 season.
 - USA Hockey changed from Jan 1 to July 1 cutoff
 - MN Hockey previously had Sept 1 cutoff
- When USAH went back to Jan 1 cutoff for 95-96 season, MH decided to stay with July 1 cutoff
 - Wanted to keep kids together by school grade
 - Many July-Aug birthdates start KG when six
 - July-Aug birthdates that start KG when five can play up if they want (most associations allow this)
 - Maintained a smooth transition to HS program (USAH brackets have 4-month gap between Bantams & HS)

Recent History

- MN Hockey was approached in 2007 to consider moving to June 1 cutoff
 - Not sure what to do – study needed – deferred
- MN Hockey was approached again in 2008 to consider moving to June 1 cutoff
 - Peter Daly made presentation to entire Board
 - Too much on our plate – deferred
- MN Hockey was approached AGAIN in 2009 to consider moving to June 1 cutoff
 - Referred to Planning Committee for consideration

Why Change

- Number of parents starting their kids in KG at age six is increasing
- Survey of seven large MH Associations

	<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>		<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>
Start KG at 6	7%	↑	44%	↑	48%		85%
	Natural Break						

- NOTE: These numbers are much higher than the MN Dept. of Education average due to the demographics associated with hockey
 - Hockey parents are typically middle/upper middle class
 - Parents are not anxious to get their kids started in school
 - More driven to see them succeed in life
 - Can afford another year of day-care if needed

MN Hockey Age-Brackets Would Be One Month Older

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
	Born On	Born On
	Or After	Or After
Squirt/10U	7-1-98	6-1-98
PeeWee/12U	7-1-96	6-1-96
Bantam/14U	7-1-94	6-1-94
16U	7-1-92	6-1-92
Junior Gold (must be attending HS)	7-1-90	6-1-90

Ages indicated are for 2009-2010 Season

Present, Proposed & USAH Ages

	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade
Present	9 00	9 99	9 98	9 97
MITES	SQUIRTS		PEEWEEES	
1 Month Older	7 00		7 98 →	
MITES	SQUIRTS		PEEWEEES	
USAH Ages	6 00		6 98	
MITES	SQUIRTS		PEEWEEES	
	1 01		1 99	

- Notes:
1. Ages and classifications shown are for the 2009-2010 season.
 2. Only students attending HS are eligible to play Junior Gold
Many Associations offer only Jr Gold teams (combined with 16U)

Rough Number of Players Affected

	# of Teams	# of Players	# with June Birthdates	2 nd Year with June Birthdate	# June BD's Held Back	2 nd YR with June BD's Held Back	Stranded
Mites/8U	1,000	17,000	1,417	354	595	149	
Squirts/10U	650	11,050	921	461	387	193	
PeeWees/12U	450	7,650	638	319	268	134	
Bantams/14U	265	4,505	375	188	158	79	10
16U	16	272	23	12	10	5	
Jr Gold/19U	35	595	50				
Totals		41,072	3,424	1,334	1,418	560	

Effects of Changing to June 1 Cutoff

PRO's

- Allows more players born in June to participate
With their classmates (estimate 560)
- Social aspect of keeping players together by Grade, especially girls
- Reduces the # of 9th Graders with no Bantam Eligibility (79/year)
- Some players could get three season at a level
- No one would be forced to play only one year at a level
- Would increase player retention

CON's

- We would be seven months older than other USAH teams (presently 6 months older)
- One MH Association does not allow players to up under any circumstances (players would be forced to play three seasons at a level even if they were willing to play up)
- Cyber Sport system is ready to go for 2010-2011 Season. A change now would necessitate a manual modification to internal date tables.

Should We Go With USAH Brackets?

(Six months younger than our present ages)

PRO's

- Jan 1 cutoff would make us consistent with the rest of the country
- Easier for MN Hockey teams to participate in national Tournaments
- No Cyber Sport issues

CON's

- Inconsistent with MN Hockey desire to have kids play with their class mates
- Would create a 4-month gap of 9th Graders with no bantam eligibility (even if they started school on time)
- Makes for a bad transition to our HS program
- Number of 9th Graders with no Bantam eligibility is exacerbated by kids starting KG at age six
 - July 1 cutoff fixes most of that
 - June 1 cutoff would fix 99% of it

Planning Committee Opinion

- This subject has been discussed for 2-3 years. It is not a "new" item.
- It is not a change to our Governing Documents
- Recent rule modification restricting "material changes" to the registration process would require this change to be made at this 2010 Winter Meeting or wait until 2011-2012 Season
- Planning Committee voted to put this before the Board for Consideration

Discussion

There was a lot of discussion as to where the data came from and if it is accurate.

Motion by Tom Slaird to put this item on the floor for a vote by the board. Motion died for lack of a second.

The Planning Committee was asked to verify the data and to expand the amount of data that they are using to make the decision. It was also expressed the local associations need to be informed of this change before it is voted on by the board. The committee needs to collect their own data from the associations.

Dennis gave the following instructions to the Planning Committee:

1. Random sample of 20% of associations within the state to collect the data to verify Mr. Daily's data.
2. All District Directors will feed to the Planning Committee the various association policies on moving players up a level.

This information will be presented to the board at the summer meeting so that the changes could be made for the 2011-2012 season.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol D. Carlson