

Rules Committee Report

The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Tuesday December 29, 2009.

The Committee discussed Article 15 of the Bylaws, which states:

It is the intent of MH that its current president be a USA Hockey Director and serve as an ambassador for Minnesota Hockey at the national level. Accordingly, MH shall nominate its current president as a candidate for Minnesota District Director.

This provision has been in the Bylaws for a while, but (prior to the creation of the Minnkota District) used to more flatly state that the MH President would be/should be a USA Hockey Director. Now that our USA Hockey District is exclusively Minnesota, should the language be changed? After some discussion, the Committee determined that the current verbiage was acceptable and that no change was needed.

The Committee presents the following modifications to the Bylaws, Youth Rules and Minnesota District Operating Rules for Board consideration:

Bylaws Changes

B1. *The stated intent of this proposed change is to "keep the current administration in office until the end of the fiscal year. This is especially important for the President and Secretary-Treasurer for budget preparation purposes and to be able to knowledgeably execute any documents that may be required for business during the fiscal year."*

The Rules Committee discussed this proposal at length, and felt that the present practice was satisfactory. Accordingly the Rules Committee does not recommend passage.

B2. *The stated intent of this proposed change is to "bring this section of the Bylaws into conformity with generally accepted business practices."*

The Rules Committee discussed this proposal at length, specifically the roles of the Controller and Secretary/Treasurer and their reporting relationship. The Committee did not feel it had enough information to fully understand the motivation for this change, and accordingly does not recommend its passage.

B3. *The stated intent of this proposed change is to "bring this section of the Bylaws into conformity with generally accepted business practices as well as the current practice of this Minnesota Hockey office."*

*The Rules Committee supports this proposal with the exception of the very last change. The Committee does not understand the motivation for changing the responsibilities and reporting relationships of the Controller and Secretary/Treasurer. Accordingly, the Rules Committee recommends passage with the exception of *not* changing the word "Controller" to "Board of Directors."*

ARTICLE 7 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[B1] | **Terms of Office:** Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a three year term. Directors are elected by their representative District pursuant to the rules of their district. **Terms for outgoing officers and/or directors shall end on the last day of the fiscal year following the election.**

[B2] | **Controller:** The responsibilities of the Controller are to manage the **day-to-day** financial affairs of the corporation and other duties as designated by the ~~President~~ **Treasurer subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.**

[B3] | **Secretary/Treasurer:** The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the records of the association, answer correspondence, issue notices of meetings and perform the duties usual to the office. In addition, he/**she or his/her designee** shall receive all moneys of the association and deposit same in an FDIC bank selected by the Finance Committee, and shall **oversee the** ~~keep~~ proper **keeping of the** books of accounts and **the paying of** all approved bills, under the general direction of the ~~Controller~~ **Board of Directors.**

Youth Rules and Regulations Changes

R1. The stated intent of this proposal is to "eliminate verification of dob and citizenship for teams that are not eligible for invitational, district, region and state tournaments. This would reduce work for registrars, team managers and others to collect documents and complete the verification and roster approval process. Approximately 25% to 35% of our teams are house teams; therefore this represents a significant reduction in work for our volunteers. Make registration as simple as possible for the recreation and entry level player."

The Rules Committee discussed this proposal, and believes that verification of citizenship is a USA Hockey and IIHF requirement for all USA Hockey registered teams. Accordingly the committee recommends this proposal be defeated.

I. TEAM REGISTRATION

- [R1] | A. Team Rosters Affiliates must complete a USA Hockey Roster Form for each team and submit along with proof of date of birth, proof of legal residency for non-US citizens and other required documentation (refer to paragraph entitled Credentials hereinafter) to the USA Hockey Registrar or designee for approval. **Teams categorized as "House" are exempt from submitting proof of date of birth, proof of legal residency for non-US citizens and all other required documentation.**

R2. The Discernment Committee requested that the "Participation Rule" be revised as indicated below. The proposed modified rule will make several changes, including:

- *Revert default association membership back to residence*
- *Mandate waivers requested from players enrolled and attending school in another area*
- *Define "Home Association" as either the Association of Residence or the Association of School Attendance to which a player has been properly waived*
- *Further define options for players changing schools*

The Rules Committee reviewed the proposal, and made a few small housekeeping-type changes. Both the current rule and the proposed rule are included below for clarity.

IV. PARTICIPATION (current rule)

A. PARTICIPATION POLICY

MH is a community-based amateur hockey program. Members in good standing are to participate on teams from their local affiliate (local association) based on where they attend school and the established MH affiliate boundaries as defined in the Affiliate Agreements. Mite-aged players are allowed to participate based on residence.

B. PARTICIPATION RULE

1. Youth Hockey players must play within the affiliate boundaries as defined by MH. If a player desires to play on a team outside of the player's affiliate boundary, the player must obtain written permission (waiver) from the president of governing body of both the releasing and receiving organization and receive the approval of the responsible district director(s). A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Refer to the Section entitled Eligibility Provisions. A waiver must be obtained before a player can participate outside their affiliate boundary. A player that registers or participates with their affiliate cannot participate with any other affiliate without a waiver.
2. Starting with the 2009-2010 season, Affiliate Participation for Squirt-aged players and above is redefined as players attending school in the Affiliate's geographic area, rather than those who are residing in the Affiliate's geographic area.

- a. Mite-aged players may choose to register in either their Affiliate of School Attendance or their Affiliate of Residence.
 - b. For school districts with multiple High Schools and multiple MH Affiliates, participation for Squirt-aged players and above shall be defined by one of the following:
 - i) A player attending an elementary, middle or junior high school whose geographical attendance area is completely within the geographical attendance area of a single high school is a member of the MH Affiliate covering that high school's area.
 - ii) A player attending an elementary, middle or junior high school whose geographical attendance area overlaps the geographical attendance areas of multiple high schools is a member of the MH Affiliate covering the location of the residence of the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - c. Changing Schools; A player who newly enrolls in a school outside of the geographic boundary of their current Affiliate without a corresponding change of residence shall elect one of the following:
 - i) Retain full eligibility to compete at any classification in their Affiliate prior to the new school enrollment for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school, after which time the player shall become fully eligible in their Affiliate of School Attendance; or
 - ii) be eligible at the "B" classification or lower in their new Affiliate of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school.
 - d. For the 2009-2010 Season, players that participated in their Affiliate of Residence for the 2008-2009 Season but attended school elsewhere will be given a one-time choice to continue participation in their Affiliate of Residence. This alternate participation determination will continue through that player's Youth or Girls' Hockey career unless the player moves outside of their Affiliate of Residence geo- graphical boundary, at which time school attendance will be used to determine Affiliate participation.
3. A player who is denied a waiver by his/her affiliate may appeal in writing to the responsible District Director who, after investigation, will issue a ruling. The decision of the District Director is final. Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.
 4. Players having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must also conform to the Participation Rule.

IV. PARTICIPATION

(proposed rule)

A. RESIDENCY POLICY

MH is a community-based amateur hockey program. Members in good standing are to participate on teams from their local association (local affiliate) based on the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The boundaries of the geographical area served by each local association are determined by MH and recorded in the Affiliate Agreements. In some circumstances, players may participate in another association by requesting a formal waiver from this policy.

B. RESIDENCY RULE

1. Youth Hockey players must register and participate with the association whose boundaries incorporate the player's residence. If a player desires to participate on a team from any other association, the player must obtain a waiver.
 - a. All waiver requests must be submitted on the current Waiver Form provided by MH.
 - b. The Waiver Form must indicate the reason for the waiver request. (school attendance, opportunity to play on travel team, co-op team, etc.).
 - c. Any conditions that apply to a waiver must be indicated on the Waiver Form and initialed by all parties executing the waiver.
 - d. Waiver Forms must be signed by the releasing and receiving association presidents before being submitted to the District Director responsible for those associations for approval. If the releasing and receiving associations are in two districts, the waiver form must be submitted to both District Directors for approval.

2. Definitions

Association of Residence: the association whose boundaries incorporate the player's residence.

Association of School Attendance: the association whose boundaries incorporate the location of the school the player attends.

Home Association: either the Association of Residence, or the Association of School Attendance to which a player has been properly waived.

3. A waiver shall be granted to any player who wishes to participate in the MH association whose boundaries incorporate the school in which the player is enrolled and is attending. For schools with multiple campuses, the "main" campus shall prevail unless agreed otherwise by the affected District Director(s). Players waived based on school choice shall be deemed to be members of their Association of School Attendance and shall have full rights and privileges accorded to all members of that association, including voting rights. (Exception – see "Changing Schools" below.) Players receiving a waiver based on school attendance shall register with their Association of School Attendance for as long as they are qualified students of that school (including the first year).
4. Players waived for non-school attendance reasons shall be subject to the receiving association's policies in accordance with MH governing documents (e.g. may not be eligible for "A" team, may be assigned to lowest available team, etc.). They shall remain members of their Home Association, not the association they were waived into, with full rights and privileges accorded to all members of their Home Association, including voting rights.
5. Changing Schools
 - a. **Players whose Home Association has been based on residence:**

Players who newly enroll in a school outside of the boundaries of their Association of Residence without a corresponding change of residence, shall elect one of the following:

 1. Retain full eligibility to compete at any classification in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Be eligible at the "B" classification or lower in their new Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school (a waiver is required).
 - b. **Players whose Home Association has been based on school attendance:**

Players who newly enroll in a school outside of the boundaries of their Association of School Attendance without a corresponding change of residence, shall elect one of the following:

 1. Have full eligibility to compete at any classification in their Association of Residence; or
 2. Have full eligibility to compete at any classification in their new Association of School Attendance if they completed the grades of school offered at their former Association of School Attendance; or
 3. Be eligible at the "B" classification or lower in their new Association of School Attendance for one (1) year beginning with the first day of attendance in the new school if they did not complete the grades of school offered at their former Association of School Attendance.
 - c. Unusual circumstances may be submitted to the District Director for determination. The District Director's decision is final.
6. A player that participates without a necessary waiver is considered an ineligible player. Refer to the Section entitled Eligibility Provisions. A waiver must be obtained before a player can participate outside of their Home Association. During a season, a player that registers or participates with one association cannot participate with any other association without a waiver (applies to players with dual residency).
7. A player denied a waiver by his/her Home Association may appeal in writing to the District Director having jurisdiction over the Home Association, who after investigation will issue a ruling. The decision of the District Director is final. Also see Section entitled Eligibility Provisions.
8. Players having dual citizenship, one being the United States, must also conform to the residency rule.

Changes To USA Hockey Minnesota District Operating Rules

*M1. This proposed clarifies how Minnesota District elections are to be conducted where voting is weighted by participants. In cases where there are multiple positions and multiple candidates (2 positions, three candidates, vote for two), it will be clear that the maximum number of votes that can be cast for any one candidate cannot exceed the voter's actual membership total. For example, if a voter has 5,000 votes and is voting for two candidates, he/she can cast 5,000-5,000 to two candidates, 5,000-3,000-2,000 to three candidates, or 4,000-3,000-3,000 to three candidates, etc., but *cannot* cast 10,000 votes to one candidate, 7,000-3,000 to two candidates, 6,000-3,000-1,000 to three candidates, etc.*

[M1]

4. Minnesota District USA Hockey Directors shall be elected at the Spring meeting. The number of directors is determined by USA Hockey rules. The votes will be cast by representatives of the affiliate, and the affiliate will determine the representatives that will cast votes. The USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar will determine the number of votes that each designated representative will cast. Directors will be elected to a three year term. A vacancy can be filled at either the fall or spring meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the event that two or more Directors are being elected, there shall be one election in which each voting member casts vote(s) according to the number of Directors being elected (i.e. two Director openings, three candidates, vote for two; **only the actual membership total of votes may be cast for any one individual**) with the successful candidates being those receiving the most votes and at least a simple majority of the votes cast. In a situation where multiple positions are being elected and not all of the positions are filled on the first ballot, any candidate receiving a simple majority is elected and a subsequent election shall take place among the remaining candidates. If none of the candidates have a simple majority, the candidate receiving the least votes shall be dropped and the position re-voted. If more than one new director is being elected, seniority will be ordered by the number of votes with the one elected first or receiving the most votes being the most senior director, etc.

[End of Rules Committee Report]