

Rules Committee Report 2014 Spring Meeting

rev. 2 3/24/2014



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

The committee was asked to develop a policy on whether on-ice players are to remove their helmets for the National Anthem. We could establish a cut-off – such as Mites leave them on but Squirts and above take them off. But in the end, it was determined to be a USA Hockey issue and the committee elected to take no action.

Modifications to the Bylaws, Youth Rules and Conflict of Interest Policy are proposed, as shown below for Board consideration. Also included are details of a future proposed change to the Youth Rules regarding Concussion Management for discussion only.

Bylaws Changes

B1. Remove current combined Secretary/Treasurer position and add separate positions with brief job descriptions.

ARTICLE 7 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[B1] **Vice Presidents:** The ~~five~~ **four** individuals serving as Vice Presidents shall be responsible for Hockey Operations, ~~Planning~~, Publicity/Promotion, Gold Division Coordinator and Maroon Division Coordinator. Each Vice President shall be elected to their specific position and ensure that their area is organized and expanded with the assistance of the District Directors.

~~**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 monies of the association and deposit same in an FDIC bank selected by the Finance Committee, and shall oversee the proper keeping of the books of accounts and the paying of all approved bills, under the general direction of the Board of Directors.~~

Secretary: *The Secretary shall maintain the records of MH, issue notices of board meetings, record minutes of board meetings, preserve all official documents and perform other duties customary of the office of secretary.*

Treasurer: *The Treasurer shall be responsible for all MH financial activities and perform other duties customary to the office of Treasurer.*

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~~, **Secretary, Treasurer** and not more than ~~five~~ **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.

Youth Rules Changes

R1. *There was some confusion this year on overtimes for preliminary round Region/State Tournament games. Some argued that they "led to" the finals and therefore should be treated like a final game. It is proposed to add the word "final" to correct this.*

R2. *The Tournaments Committee requested a restriction on State Tournament host sites.*

X. DISTRICT REGION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

J. BREAKING OF TIES

- [R1] 2. Exception: For State Tournament **final** (first-place) games and regional games which are either first-place games or games that seed teams directly to the state tournament, the following overtime format shall be used. The teams shall not change goals during the entire overtime.
- A two minute rest, then a first sudden-victory overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - A two minute rest, then a second sudden-victory overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - Resurface the ice, then conduct additional ten-minute sudden-victory overtime periods, as needed, five on five, with two-minute rests between periods and resurfacing after every three periods.
- This plan of play shall continue until one team scores. If the teams remain tied after three ten minute periods of sudden victory overtime, the tournament director, in the best interest of the tournament, has the option of suspending the game and completing it at a later time.

- [R2] O. LOCATION/FORMAT/GAME SCHEDULE - The location (community and arena) of each regional and state tournament must be submitted by the hosting District Director or the cognizant Divisional Vice President to the Tournaments Committee Chair on or before the MH Summer Meeting. **Each State Tournament must be hosted at a site of an association that fielded at team at that level in the prior season.** The tournament formats, including tournament dates and game times must be submitted to the Tournaments Committee Chair no later than November 1 in the year preceding the tournament. If the above requirements are not met, the Tournaments Committee Chair shall notify the cognizant Divisional Vice President within five days following the deadline. The cognizant Divisional Vice President is responsible for resolving the problem. This resolution must be accomplished within fifteen days and the Tournaments Committee Chair is to be so notified. For Region and State tournaments with elimination-brackets, the team on the top of the bracket is home. For round-robin tournaments, the home team shall be clearly indicated.

R3. *Several changes to the Invitational Tournament section are proposed:*

XI. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

- [R3] A. All invitational tournaments that involve teams from more than one MH district, including tournaments played outdoors on natural ice, must be sanctioned by MH. If the tournament will include teams from outside MH, then USA Hockey sanction is also required. **Any invitational tournament that includes sites in multiple districts must be approved by the District Directors of the districts involved.**
- B. An Association and/or a MH District may conduct special events as authorized by the District Director, provided that only teams from within that district participate. Special events must follow all rules for sanctioning invitational tournaments except that there is no sanction fee and these events are not subject to the January 15th sanctioning deadline. Any event involving three or more teams, excluding regularly scheduled league games, is considered to be an invitational tournament, unless the teams are all from the same district and/or the event has been authorized as a special event. **If any monies are collected or paid by teams or individuals, it shall be considered a tournament.**
- C. The conditions for sanctioning invitational tournaments are as follows:
- All teams participating must be registered with USA Hockey or another International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) affiliate such as the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA).
 - Guaranteed Gate tournaments are allowed, with the understanding that the single team payment includes all tournament entry and spectator admission fees with no additional charges.

3. Invitational tournaments of the same age group and division cannot be held on the same weekend within a 50 mile radius of a MH state tournament. If more than one ice sheet is available at an arena complex, no invitational tournament may be held at that arena complex on the same weekend that a MH Regional or State Tournament is being held. If there is a conflict in dates, Invitational sponsors agree to refund entry fees of all teams which qualify for district, regional or state MH tournaments.
4. Officials must be USAH registered, and USAH playing rules and age classifications as modified by MH must be used.
5. MH Youth Rules and Regulations paragraphs entitled "Credentials" and "Medical Attention" in the District, Region and State Tournaments section apply to all invitational tournaments.
6. The MH fee to sanction an invitational tournament is \$100 for each division and classification (e.g. For a tournament with Squirrel A, Peewee A, and Peewee B levels, the sanction fee is \$300).
7. If team(s) from outside of MH participate, a USA Hockey invitational tournament sanction fee is also required, consisting of one of the following:
 - a. A fee set by USA Hockey for registered teams from outside of MH
 - b. A fee set by USA Hockey for team(s) from other IIHF Federations (i.e. Canada).
Note that the USA Hockey fee is per tournament, not per division/classification.
8. The following items must be submitted by ~~the~~ a sponsoring MH Association to the cognizant district director or the district tournament coordinator for preliminary approval:
 - a. Completed tournament application on the official MH sanction application form
 - b. Copy of proposed tournament rules, including tournament entry fee information
 - c. Tournament bracketing, with ice times
 - d. One check, payable to MH, for each application that includes the MH and USAH sanction fees.
Applications submitted without the above items will be returned. Once preliminarily approved, applications will be forwarded to the MH Tournaments Committee Chair for final approval.
9. An application to host an invitational tournament must be received by the cognizant District Director or the district tournament coordinator no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled first day of the tournament. Applications will not be accepted after January 15.
10. LATE APPLICATIONS - The MH tournament sanction fee for applications received less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled first day of the tournament will be \$200 for each level. Additionally, sanction applications received less than ~~seven~~ ten days prior to the start of a proposed tournament are subject to outright rejection or a fine of up to \$500 (in addition to the \$200 per level fee), as determined by the MH Tournaments Committee Chair.
11. Modifications to an approved application (such as changes in tournament rules, ice times, bracketing, or teams participating) must be submitted for review and approval by the MH Tournaments Committee Chair at least ~~seven~~ ten days prior to the start of the tournament.
12. The completed and approved sanction form and accompanying materials (tournament rules and bracketing) serve as a contract between the sponsoring affiliate and MH/USAH as to how the tournament will be conducted. Un-approved changes to this contract (such as changing brackets, game time, or rule substitutions) will be considered a sanction violation, subject to penalties defined below.

13. In the event of a tournament cancelation:

a. The District Director or the Tournament Director for the district must be notified in writing no less than ten days before the start date of the tournament. USAH fees and late fees will not be returned.

b. The host may request a refund of MH tournament fees from the MH Tournaments Committee Chair, in writing, within thirty days of the start date of the tournament.

14. Hosting an unsanctioned tournament or violating MH and/or USA Hockey tournament rules will be cause for penalties to the hosting association:

a. For the first offense, the association will not be allowed to host invitational tournaments at the division/classification (Bantam A, Peewee B, etc.) at which the violation occurred for the balance of the current season and the following season. **Monetary fines may also be assessed to the association(s).**

b. For the second offense within a three year period, the association will not be allowed to host or participate in invitational tournaments and MH playoffs at any level for the balance of the current season and the following season. **Monetary fines may also be assessed to the association(s).**

c. In the event that the violation is considered a minor or inadvertent error, a penalty may be reduced at the discretion of the Tournaments Committee Chair and the cognizant District Director.

d. Penalized Associations may not have another association host tournaments at their sites.

Evaluation of circumstances and assessment of penalties shall be the joint responsibility of the cognizant District Director and the Tournaments Committee Chair. Disputes regarding the penalties to be assessed shall be decided by the Tournaments Committee. Committee decisions shall be considered a "decision of MH". (Refer to Bylaws Article 7, Board of Directors, District Directors Duties)

[R3]

15. Teams participating in unsanctioned tournaments ~~may be suspended~~ **will be subject to disciplinary action by the District, up to and including suspension** from MH activities for the balance of that season and the following season.

D. EXEMPT EVENTS – Sanction Applications and sanction fees are not required for the following events:

1. MN Hockey District, Region, and State Tournaments.
2. Events involving teams from a single MN Hockey District.

The rules and bracketing to be used for either of the above events must be provided to the Tournaments Committee Chair or the District Director.

E. Interstate, National and International tournaments, refer to the MH By-Law Article entitled “Registration” and the Article Entitled “International Competition”.

F. Invitational tournaments shall be scheduled so as to minimize the time a player is away from school. When preparing invitational tournament schedules, every consideration shall be given to schedule games in a manner that does not require a player to miss any school time.

1. Associations hosting invitational tournaments wherein there are games scheduled when school is in session shall advertise this fact in any promotional material used to recruit tournament participants.
2. No team traveling more than fifty miles, one way, from the tournament site shall be required to play a game that starts prior to 6:00 PM on a school day, unless the team indicates their willingness to do so in writing on their invitational tournament entry form **(e-mail acceptable), and the host team plays in the same or an earlier game on the same day.** ~~The tournament host must keep these forms on file for a period of one (1) year from the tournament date for audit purposes. In the event MH performs such an audit, and the association being audited is not able to provide the appropriate tournament entry forms, that association will be deemed to be in violation of this rule.~~

~~3. No team traveling more than fifty miles, one way, to play in a invitational tournament shall be required to play in a game that starts prior to 6:00 pm on a school day, unless the host team and any other team from within a fifty mile radius, is playing in the same game or in an earlier game scheduled on the same day.~~

3. In the event it becomes necessary to change a tournament schedule and such change requires that a team must involuntarily play a game that will take its players away from school, that team will be allowed to withdraw from the tournament, and any fees paid by that team shall be fully refunded by the tournament host, within seven (7) days after the date of withdrawal.

4. Minnesota Hockey affiliates who authorize others within their affiliate to conduct sanctioned tournaments shall be responsible for compliance with this rule.

5. Tournament host associations who violate this rule, or any portion thereof, will lose tournament sanctioning privileges and/or the right to host a Minnesota Hockey tournament for a period of not less than one (1) year from the end of the season in which the violation occurred. **Violations could also result in monetary fines to the Association(s).**

Board of Directors Code of Conduct

CC1. There was a proposal at the Winter Meeting to add a new Governing Document "Social Media Policy". This was withdrawn due to questions about how would interface with the SafeSport policy. Derek Ricke, Glen Andresen and Scott Gray all weighed in on this. It was determined that much of the content was direction to MH employees rather than the Board, so it could be belonged in an employee manual or similar policy. The portions affecting the Board could be easily added to the Code of Conduct rather than creating a new policy. The following amendment to the Board of Directors Code of Conduct is proposed for Board consideration:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CODE OF CONDUCT

6. Official Spokesperson Members are the stewards of the organization and advocates of its policies and programs. The official spokesperson for the Board is the chair of the Board or the chair's designee.

[CC1]

Whenever a Member issues a ~~written or oral~~ statement **verbally, in writing or via a social media platform** ~~to anyone~~ that could conceptually become public information, the statement should be identified as the personal opinion of the Member and not the official position of MH, unless specific permission to speak officially was granted by the Board. **In the case of social media, the above holds true regardless of whether Board member or representative's name is visible on the account or not.**

Concussion Management

The following Concussion Management Protocol was developed in response to the requirements of state statute 121A.37. It is not intended to be voted on at the Spring Meeting, but rather at the Summer Meeting. There is concern over how we could manage/track the training obligations. The below is proposed to be added to the Playing Rules and is for discussion only at this time:

K. Concussions

1. Minnesota Statute requires MH to 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 and/or officials shall 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 qualified medical professional evaluates the player and gives the player written permission to again participate.

Also in Youth Rules, section X. District, Region & State Tournaments, para. M:

M. MEDICAL ATTENTION - A Certified Athletic Trainer, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), paramedic or medical or osteopathic physician shall be on site for each one or two games in progress, except such medical attention shall not be required for Mite games. This group shall include licensed health care professionals, Certified Athletic Trainers, Emergency Medical Technologists (EMT) and any additional persons who have successfully completed and maintained certification for programs conducted by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association, specifically AFORE (Advanced First Aid), CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation), and BLS (Basic Life Support). Registered Nurses are included if they are currently certified for AFA/CPR/BLS. The retained medical personnel have the final say on whether an injured player can return to the game. Refer to the paragraph hereinbefore entitled "Concussions" for additional information.

[End of Rules Committee Report]