

Rules Committee Report 2015 Spring Meeting

rev. 1 03/23/2015



The Mn Hockey Rules Committee met on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. There were a few items on our agenda that we will not take action on, or were deferred for future action by this or other committees. These included:

- Change our Inter-Affiliate Transfer Protocol since we will soon be offering an off-season Tier I program
 - Allowing Scrimmage Fests (referred to District Directors Committee)
 - Modify language for early Friday games in Invitational Tournaments (Tournaments Committee decided to leave as-is)
 - Revision to Bylaw Article 14 - Sexual and Physical Abuse Policy to include USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook
- Modifications to the Bylaws and Youth Rules are proposed, as shown below for Board consideration.

Bylaws Changes

Two changes are proposed to the Appeals-Suspensions-Court Actions article.

B1. We say that if a hearing is required, it must be performed in accordance with USAH Bylaw 10. However, we need to acknowledge that we have made a few modifications for our purposes.

*B2. We currently say that we will suspend your membership if you take us to court before you've exhausted all of the remedies available in the MH and USAH Bylaws. USAH's position on this is that when you sign up you agree that our remedies are your *exclusive* recourse – if you take us to court at any time, your membership is immediately suspended. We should modify our policy to be the same.*

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 by this Article, the hearing shall be governed by USA Hockey Bylaw 10.** ~~below and in USA Hockey Bylaw 10 is required.~~
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".

- I. ~~Court Actions:~~ **Exclusive Remedy: All claims, demands, discipline or disputes as defined above shall be subject to the provisions of this Article, and this Article shall constitute the sole and exclusive remedy for dispute resolution.** Any recourse to the courts of any jurisdiction by any member or individual ~~before all of the rights and remedies available under the MH Articles and By Laws and USA Hockey Bylaws have been exhausted,~~ shall be deemed conduct detrimental to the best interests of hockey and a violation of the MH and USAH Articles and By Laws. This violation will result in suspension of membership and/or expulsion from the organization pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

B3. *The State of Minnesota does not allow proxy voting for non-profit Boards of Directors. We need to remove our provision allowing constituent-elected Board members to appoint someone to vote in their absence. USAH does not allow proxy voting either – if you aren't there you can't vote. Absent Board members could still appoint someone to represent them at meetings and participate in discussions, but they would not be able to vote. Changes are needed in three places:*

ARTICLE 7 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[B3] **Voting Quorum:** At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a simple majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum with the manner of voting to be established by the presiding officer. Cumulative and proxy voting is prohibited ~~except as defined for constituent elected Board members in "Voting" hereinafter~~ **at Board and Committee Meetings.**

ARTICLE 9 - MEETINGS

[B3] Board of Directors Meetings: It is the normal obligation of all voting members to attend official meetings of the Board of Directors, ~~or appoint an alternate representative in accordance with Article 7.~~ Attendance/representation is expected for all days of MH state meetings. All meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees must start with and maintain a quorum. Confirmation of a quorum and determination of a simple majority or 2/3's vote shall be based on the number of voting members present at the time of the vote.

[B3] **Voting:** In accordance with the Article entitled "Board of Directors" hereinbefore, each Board member is entitled to one vote, excluding Board members indicated as "non-voting". Individuals holding multiple voting positions on the Board are entitled to a single vote. ~~Constituent elected (member elected) Board members may appoint an alternate to vote in their absence, provided the MH Secretary is informed prior to the start of the meeting in question. The alternate cannot be another voting Board member. The constituent elected Board members are defined as the Adults Director, Disabled Hockey Director, District Directors, Juniors Director, Referee Section Director and Women's Director.~~

Youth Rules Changes

R1. *We need to define "school" as it relates to the Participation Rule.*

IV. PARTICIPATION

2. Definitions

Residence – the community in which the parent(s) or legal guardian(s)/custodian(s) as confirmed by a court, having primary custody live(s) the majority of time when tryouts begin. A pending move is not considered unless the parent or legal guardian has closed on the sale of a new residence. Players moving after tryouts begin can be assigned to teams on a space-available basis.

Association of Residence – the association whose boundaries include the player's residence.

Association of School Attendance – the association whose boundaries include 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 and continues to attend school.

[R1] **School – the primary educational provider of the student to achieve progress towards a high school diploma, the equivalent of a high school diploma, or any post high school degree. If the provider does not instruct the student at a physical facility, the location of the school shall be the student's primary residence. High school students taking post high school classes shall not be deemed to be attending school at the post high school provider's location.**

R2. We currently require coaches of pre-season HS teams be CEP-certified when the team is registered (was added in 2005). This is rarely done for new coaches because there are no CEP clinics that early in the season. We need to give them more time to complete the training or just remove this provision. Terry Evavold was consulted on this and provided the following solution:

VIII. PLAYING RULES

[R2] H. Only the players (maximum 20) and coaches (maximum 4) that are listed on the official USAH Roster or replacement coaches approved by the district director are allowed to be on the bench during MH sanctioned competition. Replacement coaches must be currently registered and rostered on a MH team and can use their current team roster for purposes of credential verification. In order to participate in team activities, all coaches (head and assistant) must be certified at the proper Coaching Education Program (CEP) level according to USAH requirements. Coaches of pre-season High School teams need to be CEP certified at the proper level when the team is registered **or no later than two weeks before the end of their season.** Managers are not allowed on the bench. All Players on the bench, including players not dressed to play in the game, must wear a helmet/face mask and team jersey.

R3. We had some problems this year with how to handle overtime periods in region games. There is an exception for games that seed direct to the State Tournament, but there were a few instances where the exception was missed. It is proposed to move the exception language closer to the beginning of the process so it is less likely to be missed.

X. DISTRICT, REGION & STATE TOURNAMENTS

J. BREAKING OF TIES

[R3] 1. If the score is tied at the end of the regulation play in region or state tournament games, the teams shall not change goals and sudden victory overtime play shall ensue using the following format.

(Note exception below for Championship games and region games seeding teams to the State Tournament.)

- a. A two minute rest, then a first overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - b. A two minute rest, then a second overtime period – five minutes – four on four
 - c. Resurface the ice, then conduct additional ten-minute overtime periods - three on three - followed by two-minute rests. In the event of a penalty, the non-penalized team would be allowed a fourth player (four on three). The penalized player (or player serving the penalty) would return to the ice when the penalty is over, and four on four play would continue until there is a stoppage of play, at which time three on three would resume.
 - d. Refer to paragraph entitled “Ice Resurfacing” herein for resurfacing requirements.
2. Exception: For State Tournament final (first-place) games and region 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. A two minute rest, then a first sudden-victory overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - b. A two minute rest, then a second sudden-victory overtime period – ten minutes – five on five
 - c. 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.

[End of Rules Committee Report]