



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: **13 Only Player Movement – Tier I**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **convert from pilot to rule**

PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

Pilot Program Name: 13 Only Player Movement – Tier I

Effective Date: 9/1/23 – 3/31/25

Approval Date: **2/16/23**

Pilot Program:

In the Tier 1 classifications, player movement will be allowed as follows:

- a. Players shall only move within their own organization.
- b. 13 Only players may move up to the 14U classification. 14U shall not move up to any higher classification. 15 Only may move up to the 16 Only classification and 16 Only may move up to the 18U classification. Players using the player movement rule will be allowed to move up and down for a maximum of eight (8) games per Regular season.
- c. Player movement is only permitted for injuries or to give players an opportunity to play at the next level. A player shall not be moved up if all your roster players, 18 skaters and 2 goalies, will be present for the game. Movement is not permitted to replace a player serving a Misconduct or Match penalty.
- e. Players exercising this option will not have a 72-hour waiting period and will not need to be released from one team and added to the other team they are moving to.
- f. Player movement will be allowed up to ~~December 23~~ February 1 of the current playing season. Player movement will be allowed to fill spots of players that move up to a Junior team until the date established by USA Hockey each year.
- g. Player movement is allowed to USHL, NAHL Junior teams and USA Hockey NTDP programs. This movement is allowed until a date that is established by USA Hockey each year.
- h. For player movement tracking, an individual appointed by the State Playoff Committee Chair will be assigned to the Tier 1 category. Teams will submit to this individual the Player Movement Form every time every time a player moves up. This will track how many games an individual player has moved up. Coaches who do not report player movement or exceed the maximum number of moves will be subject to disciplinary actions and suspension of up to one year.

Revise As Follows:

Insert at IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Team

ADD AFTER #7 AND RENUMBER ALL SUBSEQUENT SECTIONS

#7 defines Vertical Integration for 16O, 15O, and 14U

- 8. In the Tier 1 classification, 13 Only player movement will be allowed as follows:**
- a. Players shall only move within their own organization.**
 - b. 13 Only players may move up to the 14U classification. Players using the player movement rule will be allowed to move up and down for a maximum of eight (8) games per Regular season.**
 - c. Player movement is only permitted for injuries or to give players an opportunity to play at the next level. A player shall not be moved up if all the team's rostered players, twenty (20), will be present for the game. Movement is not permitted to replace a player serving a Misconduct or Match penalty.**
 - d. Players exercising this option will not have a 72-hour waiting period and will not need to be released from one team and added to the other team they are moving to.**
 - e. Player movement will be allowed up to December 31 of the current playing season.**
 - f. For player movement tracking, an individual appointed by the MAHA State Playoff Committee Chairperson will be assigned to the 13 Only Tier 1 category. Teams will submit to this individual the Player Movement Form every time a player moves up. This will track how many games an individual player has moved up. Coaches who do not report player movement or exceed the maximum number of moves will be subject to disciplinary actions and suspension of up to one year.**
 - g. Generic rules (i.e. game count limits, etc.) applying to Vertical Integration for 14U, 15O, and 16 Only also apply.**

Effective Date of Rule:

2026-2027 Regular Season

The current MAHA pilot was extended though the 2025-26 season at the MAHA April Board of Directors meeting

Reason For Change:

- convert from pilot to rule
- In the 2024-2025 USAH pilot program 13O to 14U vertical movement was incorporated and monitored through USAH; the rule passed by USAH at the 2025 Winter Meeting does not provide for 13O to 14U movement monitored by USAH

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Tier I Committee**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

MAHA Directors Action: **38-0**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: Tier 1 Player Movement 10U – 12U

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. convert from pilot to rule PAGE NO. _____

Current Pilot Reads:

Pilot Program Name: Tier I Player Movement
Effective Date: 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Regular Season
Approval Date: 5/16/2024

Pilot Program:

The proposed pilot covers the following, MAHA Tier I age categories: All Youth 10U – 12U Travel Category AAA Division; All Girls 12U Travel Category AAA Division

For the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Regular Season, once a player is approved on a MAHA Tier I roster, said player may not roster with another MAHA Tier I team for that same Regular Season. Players wishing to leave said team may move to a Tier II or Tier III program only. These players would fall under the financial policies in the MAHA Affiliate Agreement for MAHA Tier I players. In the case of a team-initiated player release, said player may roster with another MAHA Tier I or Tier II team and the financial policies in the MAHA Affiliate Agreement for nonTier I players apply. There are no exceptions and no appeals.

Older age categories at the Youth and Girls Tier I Level are covered under the National Policy which is very similar to this pilot.

Revise As Follows:

Insert at: IV. Youth & Age Division Classifications; A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Team

13. All Youth 10U – 12U Travel Category AAA Division: once a player is approved on a MAHA Tier I roster, said player may not roster with another MAHA Tier I team for that same Regular Season. Players wishing to leave said team may move to a Tier II or Tier III program only. These players would fall under the financial policies in the MAHA Affiliate Agreement for MAHA Tier I players. In the case of a team-initiated player release, said player may roster with another MAHA Tier I or Tier II team and the financial policies in the MAHA Affiliate Agreement for non Tier I players apply. There are no exceptions and no appeals. Older age categories at the Youth Tier I Level are covered under the National Policy.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change: convert from pilot to rule

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES: Submitted by: Tier I Committee

1. Submit to District Director District Director: Bob DeSpirt

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting Rules Committee Action: 7-0

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN
ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-03

SUBJECT: **Girl's USAH High School Nationals**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV.F.7** PAGE NO. **17**

Current Rule Reads:

Girls High School teams that participate in the Michigan Girl's High School Hockey League will be able to play for USA Hockey Girls High School Hockey National Championship.

In order to participate in the Girls High School Hockey National Championship, the following must be adhered to:

The High School team must be rostered as a USA Girls High School Team for the regular season each year. Even if the team is recognized by their High School as a school sponsored team.

The Team will play their normal high school schedule against other Girls high school team in the league and skate from November through February.

On an annual basis:

MAHA will send in a declaration to USA Hockey High School Section by November 15th each year stating that Michigan will be sending a team to participate in the Girls High School Nationals.

The Girls High School registered team will be determined each year using the following process:

The team will be determined by February 28th of each year.

Revise As Follows:

Change Pilot to a rule

Effective Date of Rule:

Reason For Change:

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Don Wright**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director:

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 39-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-10

SUBJECT: **IV. Rules and Regulations for District Playoffs**

MAHA

USA

CHANGE

NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV. C.**

PAGE NO. 34

Current Rule Reads:

C. 10U - 18U Travel Category and A Division.

1. The Travel category is a level of select hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category include teams which play in a declared Travel A Division league or any team playing an independent schedule, registered as a Travel A team. The recognized Youth classifications shall be the Youth 9U, 11U, and 13U age classifications. The Travel category will be the A Division. Teams in this classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. A 14 and under, 12 and under and 10 and under team in this classification shall not have players who are in their last year of eligibility. In the (Midget) 15/16 classification, no players from the (Midget) 17/18 classification are allowed.
3. May have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered. In the 16U (Midget) classification teams will be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of-District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residence Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player, but may submit an exception where applicable.

Revise As Follows:

C. 10U - 18U Travel Category and A Division.

1. The Travel category is a level of select hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category include teams which play in a declared Travel A Division league or any team playing an independent schedule, registered as a Travel A team. The recognized Youth classifications shall be the Youth 10U, 12U, and 14U age classifications. The Travel category will be Division A. Teams in this classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.
2. At 10U through 14U classification A division Travel teams may have no more than 5 players who are in their last year of eligibility if they desire. All A division travel teams in the 10U, 12U and 14U classification with players in their last year of eligibility as part of their roster will have no players who reside outside the MAHA District in which the team is rostered. To be eligible to roster an A Travel team with players in the last year of eligibility the association must have a rostered Tier II AA team in that same classification. 9U, 5 10 year old players, 11U, 5 12 year old players and 13U, A 5 14 year old players allowed.
3. In the (Midget) 15/16 classification, no players from the (Midget) 17/18 classification are allowed. All 16U (Midget) classification teams will be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of-District players provided, those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residence Policy and are MAHA/USAH registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to no Out-of-State player but may submit an exception where applicable.

Effective Date of Rule: January 2026

Reason For Change:

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **B. Yohe USA Hockey Registrar MI**

District Director:

Rules Committee Action: 5-1

MAHA Directors Action: 32-6

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY MAY. 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via e-mail or on a disk)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-11

SUBJECT: 72 Hour Rule date stamp

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. II. Registration and Rostering PAGE NO. 24

Current Rule Reads:

II. C. Before playing any games, a team must have a USA Hockey approved roster (1-T) from the appropriate USA Hockey Associate Registrar. In the Adult Men’s and Women’s Rec. divisions, the (1-T) form is required before participating in the District/State playoffs. All rosters and required paperwork must be submitted to the appropriate USA Hockey Associate registrar for review and approval 72 hours before your first scheduled game. Any roster that is presented to the District Associate Registrar that needs additional verification of any players, coaches or manager’s eligibility will not be added to the roster until verification has been completed.

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Revise As Follows:

II. C. Before playing any games, a team must have a USA Hockey approved roster (1-T) from the appropriate USA Hockey Associate Registrar. In the Adult Men’s and Women’s Rec. divisions, the (1-T) form is required before participating in the District/State playoffs. All rosters and required paperwork must be submitted to the appropriate USA Hockey Associate registrar for review and approval 72 hours before your first scheduled game. **The 72 hours begins with the submission date stamp in the USA Hockey Registry.** Any roster that is presented to the District Associate Registrar that needs additional verification of any players, coaches or manager’s eligibility will not be added to the roster until verification has been completed.

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Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- Clarifies rule intent
- Eliminates ambiguity on the wait period calculation

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt / Bob Yohe**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: 6-0

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: 39-2

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: 72 Hour Rule for released players

MAHA

USA

CHANGE

NEW RULE

RULE NO. II. Registration and Rostering

PAGE NO. 28

Current Rule Reads:

II. U. A player signed to an approved team roster must secure a release in writing from that team before signing with another team. A player receiving a release must be signed to the new team roster, and approved by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar, at least 72 hours in advance of playing in a game. A player requesting a release must be granted that request if he/she is current on their fees as outlined in their Association / team player contract. In absence of the contract a prorated amount must be determined based on participation at the point of the player’s release. That prorated amount must be paid before the release will be granted. Any and all equipment belonging to the team must be returned prior to the release as well. The District Council has the authority to release a player who is refused a release by his/her team or Association.

Revise As Follows:

II. U. A player signed to an approved team roster must secure a release in writing from that team before signing with another team. ~~A player receiving a release must be signed to the new team roster, and approved by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar, at least 72 hours in advance of playing in a game.~~

A player receiving a release may be signed to a new team roster which must be approved by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar at least 24 hours in advance of playing in a game with the new team. The 24 hour period shall begin from the date the USA Hockey Associate Registrar receives as of midnight on the later of the dates shown on the “MAHA Player Release Form”.

A player requesting a release must be granted that request if he/she is current on their fees as outlined in their Association / team player contract. In absence of the contract a prorated amount must be determined based on participation at the point of the player’s release. That prorated amount must be paid before the release will be granted. Any and all equipment belonging to the team must be returned prior to the release as well. The District Council has the authority to release a player who is refused a release by his/her team or Association.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- Clarifies rule intent
- Implementation of the USAH Registration Portal reduces the need for 72 hours
- Eliminates ambiguity on the wait period calculation
- Reduces the amount of time a player has to sit before playing
- The current language could have a player waiting 144 hours before he/she can play after his request to roster has been submitted to the USA Hockey Associate registrar for approval (72 hours from II.C. plus 72 hours from II.U.)

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt / Bob Yohe**

- 1. Submit to District Director
- 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
- 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
- 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: **6-1**

MAHA Directors Action: **41-2**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

MAHA PLAYER RELEASE FORM



The conditions of this release form are as follows:

- 1. The player being released is released from the _____ team he/she is currently rostered on.
- 2. The player being released has returned all property and equipment to _____ on _____ 20_____.
- 3. The player is being released on _____, 20____ and has paid all assessed fees in full Yes/ No (If no, please complete either #4 or #5 below as applicable)
- 4. The parent/guardian of the player being released agrees they are obligated to pay all fees of \$ _____ as signed on _____ 20_____ and has posted advance payment of \$_____.
- 5. The parent/guardian of the player being released is willing to submit his/her obligations in the amount of \$ _____, as stated by the team, to a court of competent jurisdiction to determine what is due to the Association/Club or Independent team regarding the fees set out on _____ 20_____.

Players Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Date _____
(Please Print) (Please Print) (Please Print)

Player's Signature _____

Print Name of Releasing Team/Organization Name _____ Team Number _____

Number of games team and player has played to time of release on _____, 20_____ Team _____ Player _____

Print Name and Title of Releasing Organization Official _____ Title _____

Signature of Releasing Team Official _____ Date _____

I _____ parents/guardian of _____
Please Print Parent/Guardian Name Please Print Players Name

Have read and fully understand the conditions of this release.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

NEW TEAM: THIS SECTION FOR DISTRICT ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR'S USE-ONLY

DATE _____ New Team Name _____

Time: _____ District: _____ New Team # _____

Signature of Assoc-Registrar _____ Team Class: _____

Not Eligible to Play Until _____

Distribution: USA Hockey Registrar – Releasing Team Association Registrar – New Team Association Registrar – Releasing Team/Organization



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-13

SUBJECT: **Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **II. E**

PAGE NO. 24

Current Rule Reads:

E.

1. Split Season, Pre/Post Season and Pre-Season High School teams. That season runs from August 1 to November 15.
2. Tier 1 and Tier II 14U-19U Regular Season runs from August 1 to April 30.
3. Travel and Tier III regular Season runs from September 1 to April 30.
4. Spring/Summer Season shall be April 1 to August 31 or until player is rostered on a Regular Season roster.
5. Players, who are rostered on a Regular Season team still active in the current season, may not sign (or practice) another team's roster for an upcoming Pre/Post season or spring/summer season team until the team they are currently rostered on has completed their season. However, the roster, once approved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar, shall not take effect until the first day of any season.
6. Split season 16U Tier II A teams will play in a Split Season Championship in October. The champion will represent Split Season in the MAHA State Championship at the end of the regular season.
7. Split Season 18U Tier II teams will be playing for the MAHA State Championship in October. The champion will represent Michigan in the USA Hockey national Championships. Only teams participating in this season should use this season type when registering a team.
8. All 16U and 18U Split Season rosters will become dormant at the completion of the Split Season and players will be released in accordance with the MAHA release rules.
9. The MAHA 18U Tier II State Championship in October will be representing Michigan at the 18U USA Hockey National Championships. That roster will remain dormant. The dormant tag will be removed prior to practices leading to Nationals. If this team has no players participating in the MHSSA playoffs, they may request an exception from the MAHA State Playoff Committee to begin practice early.
10. The 18U National Championship participant players are ineligible to participate in more than one State Affiliate or District Championship. They must be released from any roster they are on before Districts or State Championships.
11. All Rosters may be submitted up to 14 days prior to the start of the appropriate season.

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Revise As Follows:

1. **For the** Split Season, Pre/Post Season and Pre-Season High School teams, **the** season runs from August 1 to November 15.
2. For the Tier 1 Youth 18U,16O,15O,14U,13O and Girls 19U,16U,14U the Regular Season runs from August 1 to April 30. These teams can play games in August using the Spring/Summer roster until the Regular Season roster is approved by the District Registrar.
3. For Tier II Youth 14U to 19U and Girls 14U to 19U the Regular Season runs from August 1 to April 30. These teams can play games in August using the Spring/Summer roster until the Regular Season roster is

approved by the District Registrar.

- 4. For Travel and Tier III 6U to 19U-Youth and Girls the Regular Season runs from September 1 to April 30.
- 5. The Spring/Summer Season shall be April 1 to August 31 or a until player is rostered on a Regular Season roster.
- 6. Players who are rostered on a Regular Season team still active in the current season, may not sign (or practice) on another team's roster for an upcoming Pre/Post season or Spring/Summer season team until the team they are currently rostered on has completed their season.
- 7. Rosters, once approved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar, shall not take effect until the first day of any season.
- 8. For any MAHA State Championship(s) held in October, the winner will represent Michigan at their respective USA Hockey National Championships. At the completion of the State Championship all rosters will be marked dormant. All players are free to roster with any team that is not identified as a National Bound team. Players on qualifying teams from the MAHA State Championship in October will have the dormant tag removed when the team has enough eligible players available to practice. Players playing on Non-National Bound teams are automatically dropped from their rosters. Players active on a MHSAA team are not allowed to practice with MAHA roster teams.
- 9. All Rosters may be submitted up to 14 days prior to the start of the appropriate season.

Effective Date of Rule:

Reason For Change:

For Clarification and to update with the 16U and 18U State Championships

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

- 1. Submit to District Director
- 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
- 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
- 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **B. Yohe USA Hockey Registrar MI**

District Director:

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 39-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY MAY 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via e-mail or on a disk)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-14

SUBJECT: **Youth Age & Division Classifications**

MAHA

USA

CHANGE

NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV. D. 6**

PAGE NO. 36

Current Rule Reads:

Tier III Category and B & BB Division players are allowed to dual roster and participate on Tournament Teams for tournaments if they meet to following criteria:

- a. Teams can be created, not to exceed 20 players (18 skaters and 2 goalies), all players must be currently on a regular season House/Rec. approved roster.
- b. Tournament teams must provide a USA Hockey 1T roster and all necessary paperwork to an Associate Registrar for certification 72 hours before first scheduled game.
- c. Team must turn in the completed MAHA Pilot Program Roster Form along with copies of the current rosters the players are on. Regular season coaches must give approval for participation on the form.
- d. If players and coaches are not on a current roster, they must meet all the requirements to be placed on the roster.
- e. Tournament teams would be designated A or AA teams depending on the age level of the players. (Teams with the majority of the player's ages being in the first year of that division would be allowed to participate in the A division if they choose. Teams with the majority of the players ages being in the second year of that division would be designated AA).
- f. These players will continue to participate as a member of their teams remembering a player cannot play more than two games in any single day. Regular season and Tournament Teams cannot participate in the same tournament.
- g. Failure to follow the above rules will subject the tournament team head coach to MAHA disciplinary action.
- h. Tournament teams are not eligible for MAHA District competition.

Revise As Follows:

Tier III Category B and BB Division players are allowed to dual roster and participate on Tournament Teams for tournaments if they meet the following criteria:

1. Teams can be created, not to exceed 20 players (18 skaters and 2 goalies), all players must be currently on a regular season Tier III approved roster.
2. Tournament team rosters are good for only one tournament. Roster will be dormant at completion of the tournament.
3. All players must come from the same age classification and same Michigan Amateur Hockey Association District.
4. Team must submit a USAH roster for approval along with a completed MAHA Roster Release Form to their District Associate Registrar. The MAHA roster release form must contain coaches' signatures for each player on the roster. Roster Release forms are

only good for one tournaments.

5. All necessary paperwork must be submitted to an Associate Registrar for certification 72 hours before the first scheduled game.
6. Tournament teams forming after December 31 must have approval of their district council.
7. All players and coaches are required to be on a current approved roster.
8. Tournament teams would be designated A or AA teams depending on the age level of the players. (Teams with a greater majority of the player’s ages being in the first year of that division would be allowed to participate in the A division if they choose. Teams with a greater majority of the players ages in the second year of that division would be designated AA.
9. These players will continue to participate as a member of their teams remembering that a player cannot play more than two games in any single day. Regular season and Tournament Teams cannot participate in the same tournament.
10. Failure to follow the above rules will subject the tournament team head coach to MAHA disciplinary action.
11. Tournament teams are not eligible for MAHA District competition

Effective Date of Rule:

Reason For Change:

To update and clarify current rule.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **B. Yohe USA Hockey Registrar MI**

District Director:

Rules Committee Action:7-0

MAHA Directors Action:26-13 (first amendment failed

12-27)

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY MAY.15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via e-mail or on a disk)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-15

SUBJECT: Youth Tier 1 Application

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications; A.5.a. PAGE NO. 31

Current Rule Reads:

- 5. To qualify as a Tier I Organization the following criteria must be followed:
 - a. Not more than (10) Tier 1 organizations will be awarded on an annual basis for a period from September 1st to August 31st. An application must be sent to the State Playoff Committee Chairperson for consideration not later than November 1st of the year prior to the season’s start. The State Playoff Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee who will determine the number of Tier I Organizations for the next season:

Revise As Follows:

- 5. To qualify as a Tier I Organization the following criteria must be followed:
 - a. Not more than (10) Tier 1 organizations will be awarded on **a biennial (every two years) an-annual** basis for a period from September 1st to August 31st. An application must be sent to the **State Playoff Committee Chairperson MAHA Vice-President for Youth in odd numbered years** for consideration not later than November 1st of the year prior to the season’s start. **The MAHA Vice-President of Youth will establish a Subcommittee** to review the applications and **The State Playoff Committee** will make a recommendation to the **Executive Committee MAHA Board of Directors** who will determine the number of Tier I Organizations for the next season:

Effective Date of Rule: 2/1/2026

Reason For Change:

- Allow organizations to better plan their programs/programming
- Claify the submission and approval paths
- Reduce workload
- Update language to the new MAHA structure.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Tier 1 Committee**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 6-1

MAHA Directors Action: 40-4

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-16

SUBJECT: Controlled Practice Session

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. VIII. Game Requirements PAGE NO. 48, 49

Current Rule Reads:

VIII. Game Requirements

1. All USA Hockey Rules and Regulations apply to all games and practices.
2. Definition of a game:
The following conditions shall constitute a valid game:
 - a. When two registered teams occupy the same ice surface for the purpose of competitive play.
 - b. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods of 10 minutes stopped time or 15 minutes running time, except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. The game must be officiated by registered referees and with a completed and signed score sheet.
 - c. Once the teams commence play, this session counts toward the maximum game count for both teams regardless of the minutes played. (Completion of a game stopped due to a curfew only counts as one game in total.)
3. The following conditions shall constitute an invalid game:
 - a. When two registered teams occupy the same ice surface and compete without registered referees, with or without the clock and scoreboard, with or without coaches on the ice and without a completed/signed score sheet. Coaches and players for both teams are subject to suspension under rules II., B., 1 and 2. This session does count toward the maximum game count for each team.
4. This rule is not intended to prohibit controlled practice sessions between teams in a single Association/Club only under the following circumstances: 1) an Association assigned split ice practice; 2) coaches are on the ice and using this as a teaching situation; 3) this takes place during the final portion of the practice session, not to exceed 15 minutes. This session does not count toward the maximum game count for the teams involved.

Revise As Follows:

VIII.4.

This rule is not intended to prohibit controlled practice sessions between teams in a single Association/Club only under the following circumstances: 1) an Association assigned split ice practice; 2) coaches are on the ice and using this as a teaching situation; **3) there is no game clock; 4) there are no USA certified referees. 3) this takes place during the final portion of the practice session, not to exceed 15 minutes.** This session does not count toward the maximum game count for the teams involved.

Note: if the rule to delete game limits passes, the last sentence above is also deleted.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change: allows for more teaching experience in full ice game situations during practice to augment small area games

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Mike Henry**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: 6-1

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: 36-7

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-17

SUBJECT: **Game Count Table**

MAHA
 USA
 CHANGE
 NEW RULE

RULE NO. **III. D. Game Count Table** PAGE NO. 29-30, misc

Current Rule Reads:

D. Game Count Table.

1. The following game counts shall be adhered to by teams in the classification in which they participate or roster. The game count is used to provide a proper balance between competition and practice.
2. The following exceptions to the game count table apply:
 - a. Games played in District, State and National tournaments, in classifications where these are held shall not count toward the game count.
 - b. For ages 10U and older, all tournaments shall count for four (4) games maximum regardless of the actual number of games played

<u>Category</u>		<u>Tier I & AAA</u>	<u>Tier II, AA&A</u>	<u>Tier III Girls</u>	<u>Tier III Youth B & BB</u>	<u>High School</u>
Youth	8U	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Limit on Half Ice Games	N/A
	10U	50	45	N/A	40	N/A
	12U	55	55	N/A	40	N/A
	14U	60	60	N/A	45	N/A
	15/16 Only	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	16U	65	65	N/A	50	N/A
	18U	65	65	N/A	55	N/A
	High School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65
Girls	8U	N/A	N/A	No Limit on Half Ice Games	N/A	N/A
	10U	50	45	40	N/A	N/A
	12U	55	55	40	N/A	N/A
	14U	60	60	45	N/A	N/A
	16U	65	65	50	N/A	N/A
	19U	65	65	55	N/A	N/A

Revise As Follows:

D. Game Count Table.

~~1. The following game counts shall be adhered to by teams in the classification in which they participate or roster. The game count is used to provide a proper balance between~~

~~competition and practice.~~

~~2. The following exceptions to the game count table apply:~~

~~a. Games played in District, State and National tournaments, in classifications where these are held shall not count toward the game count.~~

~~b. For ages 10U and older, all tournaments shall count for four (4) games maximum~~

~~regardless of the actual number of games played~~

This table is to provide guidance, but is not a requirement.

<u>Category</u>		<u>Tier I & AAA</u>	<u>Tier II, AA&A</u>	<u>Tier III Girls</u>	<u>Tier III Youth B & BB</u>	<u>High School</u>
Youth	8U	N/A	N/A	N/A	No Limit on Half Ice Games	N/A
	10U	50	45	N/A	40	N/A
	12U	55	55	N/A	40	N/A
	14U	60	60	N/A	45	N/A
	15/16 Only	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	16U	65	65	N/A	50	N/A
	18U	65	65	N/A	55	N/A
	High School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65
Girls	8U	N/A	N/A	No Limit on Half Ice Games	N/A	N/A
	10U	50	45	40	N/A	N/A
	12U	55	55	40	N/A	N/A
	14U	60	60	45	N/A	N/A
	16U	65	65	50	N/A	N/A
	19U	65	65	55	N/A	N/A

~~A. 4. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III,D.2.b)~~

Page 34

~~B. 6. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.,D.)~~

Page 35

~~C. 7. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.D.e.)~~

Page 36

~~D. 4. f. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.D.e.)~~

Page 38

~~F. 6. Teams in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games – Refer to (Rule III.D.b)~~

~~G. 6. Teams in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games – Refer to (Rule III.D.b)~~

Eliminate game count limit language in any missed location in the MAHA rules not cited above.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- Align with USA Hockey which does not have game limits
- MAHA is the only USAH Affiliate currently with game limits in place
- Allows teams flexibility to manage who they play and still be District and State eligible
- Already a pilot in place for Youth and Girls 10U / 12U / 14U Tier III to exceed game limits in the current rule
- 30% of the mandated 2023-24 and 2024-25 Tier I Youth MAHA Home/Away Series games were non-competitive [goal differential of 6 or more]

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Youth Committee**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: _____

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 38-3

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 2025/26-18 PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: Team Marketing

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. IV. Youth Age & Division Classification; A. 3 .PAGE NO. 30,31

Current Rule Reads:

IV. A.

3. Only teams from those organizations approved by the Executive Committee will be allowed to roster as Tier 1 or AAA teams in Michigan and shall be the only teams allowed to advertise as Tier I, AAA, elite, or similar designations for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier 1 team.

Revise As Follows:

IV. A.

~~3. Only teams from those organizations approved by the Executive Committee will be allowed to roster as Tier 1 or AAA teams in Michigan and shall be the only teams allowed to advertise as Tier I, AAA, elite, or similar designations for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier 1 team.~~

~~3. Only teams from those organizations approved by the Executive Committee MAHA Board of Directors will be allowed to roster as Tier 1 or AAA teams in Michigan and shall be the only teams allowed to advertise as Tier I, AAA, elite, or similar designations for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier 1 team.~~

Add to III. General Age & Division classifications

E. Teams may not use 'Selects', 'Elite', 'Premier', or the like in their team's name or market themselves as such including but not limited to tryout advertising, jerseys, player enticement, etc. Teams found in violation shall have the head coach suspended up to the remainder of the current season and the following season. Associations/Clubs rostering these teams shall be subject to disciplinary action. Exceptions can be heard by the Youth Committee.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- Removes language from the Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams and relocates to apply to all teams
- Clarifies rule intent
- Incorporate new MAHA structure for reporting

Team names from the 2024 16U A Split Season State Championship:

Michigan Selects U16

Michigan Elite 08, 09

West Michigan Varsity 16U Premier Talcott SS

Varsity 16U Premier Bormes SS

Michigan Selects Gray

Team names from the 2024 18U AA State Championship

Icemen HC Premier

West Michigan Varsity 18U Premier Sweeney SS

18U Michigan Elite – 2024

Icemen HC Elite

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Youth Committee**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director:

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: **6-1**

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: **37-5**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-19

SUBJECT: **Coaching Education Requirements for Oct/Nov teams**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **VII Coaching Requirements; 4.**

PAGE NO. **45**

Current Rule Reads:

4. Coaching Education Requirements.

a. Required Coaching Education Program Levels for Ice Hockey: All coaches must have the required certification level by January 1 of the current season unless earlier deadlines are established. All coaches must complete the online age-specific component PRIOR to rostering with their team in any season. All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1 and must continue their education with a coaching clinic each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 4. Coaches of 8 and Under players, as well as coaches of disabled hockey, may remain at Level 1 or other certification level, even if expired, until such time as they are coaching any older age level of play or something other than disabled hockey. A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year.

Revise As Follows:

4. Coaching Education Requirements.

a. Required Coaching Education Program Levels for Ice Hockey: All coaches must have the required certification level by January 1 of the current season unless earlier deadlines are established. All coaches must complete the online age-specific component PRIOR to rostering with their team in any season. All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1 and must continue their education with a coaching clinic each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 4. Coaches of 8 and Under players, as well as coaches of disabled hockey, may remain at Level 1 or other certification level, even if expired, until such time as they are coaching any older age level of play or something other than disabled hockey. A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year.

- i. For those teams who have their MAHA State Championships in October/November, all coaches must be at the correct level prior to the first game of the MAHA State Championships to be eligible to coach in the MAHA State Championships.**

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- Closes a loop hole for teams ending their season in October/November.
- All coaches have to complete their CEP requirement by December 31 or they are removed from the roster. This rule primarily impacts teams that have their State Championship in February/March. For teams that finish their season with the split season championship or state championship in October/November, coaches can coach their entire seson without proper CEP certification. At credentialing for these teams, we often see the same coaches not at the proper CEP level year over year.
- Coaches are not being “red-lined”, but rather deemed ineligible to coach during the MAHA State Championships held in October/November.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **District 4 Council**

District Director: **John Popma**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 38-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-20

SUBJECT: Suspension documentation on the score sheet

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. VIII. Game Requirements; 9. PAGE NO. 49

Current Rule Reads:

9. Only players who are dressed and ready to participate in the game shall be identified on the official score sheet. Any player or coach serving a suspension or game misconduct penalty shall be identified by name, team, and jersey number on all copies of the score sheet prior to the start of the game as serving the suspension or game misconduct penalty. Players or coaches serving suspensions or misconducts are not allowed in the vicinity of the player's bench.

Revise As Follows:

- 9.
- a. Only players who are dressed and ready to participate in the game shall be identified on the official score sheet. Any player or coach serving a suspension or game misconduct penalty shall be identified by name, team, and jersey number on all copies of the score sheet prior to the start of the game as serving the suspension or game misconduct penalty. **Simply crossing the individual's name off the score sheet (either paper or electronic) is insufficient evidence of serving the suspension. The 'notes' section of the score sheet (either paper or electronic) should document the suspension (i.e.: game misconduct, match, etc.) the player or coach is serving and the length of the suspension (i.e.: 1 of 1, 1 of 2, match, etc.).** ~~Players or coaches serving suspensions or misconducts are not allowed in the vicinity of the player's bench.~~
 - b. **Any Team Official (i.e: coach, manager, etc.) assessed a game misconduct penalty or a match penalty or serving a suspension penalty may not be near the bench of their team, nor in any way communicate or attempt to direct the play of their team.**
 - c. **For any Team Official (i.e.: coach, manager, etc.) or Player serving a suspension for a prior game misconduct violation or disciplinary suspension, the suspension will commence 45 minutes prior to the start of each game and conclude 30 minutes following the conclusion of each game. The Team Official or Player serving the suspension shall be prohibited from:**
 - (1) Having any interaction, involvement or communication "in person," electronically or otherwise with the team.**
 - (2) Being present in the locker room.**
 - (3) Being on or near the bench of their team.**

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- To clarify the rule intent. Often at credentialing, we find a player or coach crossed off a score sheet that the team contends was serving a suspension.
- Updates the language to better define how to document the suspension being served so that during credentialing when the documentation is incomplete added games are not required to be served.
- Providing the required documentation required in 9a. is easily done in GameSheet.
- Aligns with the USA Hockey rulebook: 9c.

i

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **J Popma /D4 Council**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director:

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 39-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: **18U BB; 30% and 50% Requirements**

MAHA

USA

CHANGE

NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications; D.** PAGE NO. 35-37

Current Rule Reads:

D. 10U - 18U Tier III Category and B & BB Division.

1. The Tier III category is a recreational travel level of hockey in Michigan determined by a draft. Teams in this category include teams which plays in a declared Tier III league or any team playing an independent schedule, registered as a Tier III team. The recognized Youth classifications shall be the Youth 10U, 12U, 14U, 16UB and 18UBB age classifications. The category will be Tier III and the Division will be B or BB (18U only). Teams in this classification are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.

2. 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.

3. Tier III Category and B & BB divisions are teams with players chosen through an open draft. To qualify for District and State Playoffs, teams in the B or BB classification must adhere to the following draft system.

4 Association draft rules must be submitted to the District Council Chairperson by August 15th of the current season. These rules must detail how B or BB teams are to be formed within the Association. The District Council shall determine if Association draft rules conform to the requirements contained herein.

a. Each team may protect a maximum of one (1) player prior to the start of the player draft.

b. Parental requests pertaining to not playing for a specific coach, for transportation reasons or twin sibling reason must be submitted in writing by the parent(s) to the Association prior to the draft. These requests may or may not be honored based on the Association's draft rules, but all requests must be administered on a consistent basis.

c. The Association must continue drafting until all available players are drafted to teams.

d. Associations with single entry B or BB teams must certify in writing that said players were taken on a first come basis. The formation of single-entry teams must be certified valid by their respective District Council.

1) Associations that did not have a team or fielded a single-entry team in this division the previous regular season must provide evidence of open draft skates and/or registration. This shall be done by publishing the dates and times on a MAHA District website, or in a local newspaper or routine hockey publications at least two weeks prior to the first draft skate. A copy of this must be submitted to the District Chair prior to the draft skate and/or registration.

e. Dates, times, and locations of all Association drafts shall be submitted to the District Council Chairperson a minimum of two weeks prior to the draft. The draft shall be

monitored by a member of the District Council or Officer of the MAHA.

f. All teams playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum number of games per season. (Rule III.D.e).

g. Within a single Association, in the 12U,14U,16UB, and 18UBB classifications only, goalies are allowed to participate on more than one team in the same classification or one age classification higher.

5 A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. The substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team classification category/division.

a. A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury or illness to the regular goalie

Revise As Follows:

Add after 5. and renumber 6, 7, 8

6. In the 18U BB Classification, games against USAH/MAHA registered JV teams can be used to meet minimum game requirements.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change: There are not enough 18UBB teams to meet the requirements for 30% and 50% and teams end up creating an exception that needs to be reviewed by the SPOC; all of which are unilaterally approved. This rule would preclude the SPOC having to hear an exception. Teams would still have to meet the player and team game requirements to be eligible for Districts and States.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone / Bob DeSpirt**

District Director: **Joe Barone / Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 2025/26-22 PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: **Guidebook Preface**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Preface** PAGE NO. **22**

Current Rule Reads:

NOTE: All Coaches, Managers and/or Team Officials shall have the sole responsibility for making sure that their team meets all the requirements for its classification and meets all the criteria for eligibility for District and State Playoffs. USA Hockey Registrars, Associate Registrars and MAHA District Council Personnel will not review rosters at registration to make this determination nor are they authorized to determine said eligibility at registration. All applicable rules for the above are located in this book and the current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

Revise As Follows:

NOTE: All Coaches, Managers, and/or Team Officials shall have the sole responsibility for making sure that their team meets all the requirements of USA Hockey as defined in the "USA Hockey Annual Guide" and "USA Hockey District and Nationals Championship Tournament Guidebook"; and the MAHA as defined in the "MAHA Annual Guide" and the "MAHA District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook". USA Hockey Registrars, Associate Registrars and MAHA District Council Personnel will not review rosters at registration to make this determination nor are they authorized to determine said eligibility at registration. Coaches, Managers, and/or Team Officials shall have the responsibility to ensure their team meets all the criteria for eligibility for District Playoffs and the MAHA State Championships.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- updates language that is more than likely over 20 years old
- makes coaches, manager, and team officicila for meeting all USAH and MAHA rules and not just those governing entry to Districts and States

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

MAHA Directors Action: **41-0**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-23

SUBJECT: Rule Changes driven by USAH and the MAHA Guidebook Error

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. Bylaw 11. PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

H. Any amendments to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations necessitated by amendments to USA Hockey Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations shall be automatically effected by the Rules Committee and reported to the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress or MAHA Annual Summer Meeting following the adoption of such amendments by USA Hockey.

Revise As Follows:

H.

1) Any amendments to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations necessitated by amendments to USA Hockey Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations shall be automatically effected by the Rules Committee, and reported to the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress or MAHA Annual Summer Meeting following the adoption of such amendments by USA Hockey. Notification of any such ammdements will be sent to the MAHA Congress by the MAHA Secretary following incorpoation.

2) The MAHA Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting, may by two-thirds vote, amend the Rules and Regulations to correct any errors or make any other changes that do not substantially impair the intent in the Rules and Regulations. Notification of any such amendments by the MAHA Board of Directors will be sent to the MAHA Congress by the MAHA Secretary following said regularly scheduled meeting.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-27 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

- allow the Guidebook to reflect the current MAHA rules without having to wait the full two year cycle for the correction of errors
- allow the Guidebook to relect the current USAH rules immediatley after implementation by USAH
- if the Guidebook reflects an old or incorrect rule, during the two year wait peroid, the MAHA could be subject to litigation to enforce the old and/or incorrect rule

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt / Dan Pozdol**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: _____

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: _____

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-24

SUBJECT: Clarifying Non-National Bound

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. II.G. PAGE NO. 25

Current Rule Reads:

All teams participating in Districts, States, and National tournaments must also adhere to additional rules for District/States eligibility as outlined in Rule IX. Failure to adhere to the requirements shall results in the team being deemed ineligible for participation in Districts, States and/or Nationals.

Revise As Follows:

All teams participating in Districts, States, and National tournaments must also adhere to additional rules for District/States eligibility as outlined in Rule IX. . Failure to adhere to the requirements shall results in the team being deemed ineligible for participation in Districts, States and/or Nationals.

For Youth and Girls Tier II National-bound divisions only, teams choosing not to participate in District, States and Nationals must have their roster marked Non-National Bound

Effective Date of Rule: **2026- 2027**

Reason For Change:

This isn't a rule change as much as it's providing clarifying wording for teams as to handle declaring non-national bound.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 40-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-25

SUBJECT: Credentialing - Rostering

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. II.H

PAGE NO. 25

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

All 10U – 19U regular season Youth and Girls’ rostered teams are required to credential with their respective District council at a time and place determined by said council.

Renumber

Effective Date of Rule: **2026- 2027**

Reason For Change:

This rule is apart of 3 rules that ultimately make all teams credential, remove registration deadlines from the respective classification sections, and move them to the tournament guidebook. Moreover, this has always been a common practice but not always adhered to.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 41-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-26

SUBJECT: Remove District and State Deadline Dates

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. IV.C.10,IV.D.8,IV.G.7,V.B.4,V.C.9 PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

Multiple rules effectively stating submit intent to enter state playoffs no later than X date.

Revise As Follows:

Effective Date of Rule: **2026- 2027**

Reason For Change:

This rule is apart of 3 rules that ultimately make all teams credential, remove registration deadlines from the respective classification sections, and move them to the tournament guidebook.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

MAHA Directors Action: **38-1**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-27

SUBJECT: Move entry deadlines to state / tournament book

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. IX.2 PAGE NO. 50

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

Add the following: C: Teams must declare their intent to enter Districts and/or States following the guidelines and deadlines outline in the District and State Tournament book.

Renumber accordingly

Effective Date of Rule: **2026- 2027**

Reason For Change:

Adding this rule will allow the State Playoff Committee and Districts to control when teams need to enter districts. This will provide greater flexibility as tournaments change.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 38-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-28

SUBJECT: **30% rule for Tier III**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV.D.2** PAGE NO. 35

Current Rule Reads:

2. 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.

Revise As Follows:

~~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.

Effective Date of Rule: **2026- 2027**

Reason For Change:

District and State eligibility was moved to section IX. This change updates Tier III to close the loop hole of where a Tier III youth team could choose not to play districts and play a full Tier I or Tier II schedule.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 34-4

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-29

SUBJECT: **Tier III- 30% Rule**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV.D.5** PAGE NO. **31**

Current Rule Reads:

5. To remain eligible for District and States Playoffs, teams may not play more than 30% of their games against teams in higher classifications.

Revise As Follows:

5. Teams may not play more than 30% of their games against teams in higher classifications.

Effective Date of Rule: 2026 - 2027

Reason For Change: This change is to set a standard for the age, division, and category regardless of being district or state eligible.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **VP of Youth**

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

MAHA Directors Action: **35-5**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-30

SUBJECT: **Deadline for Exceptions**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IX. Rules and Regulations for District and State Playoffs; 2.c.** PAGE NO. 50

Current Rule Reads:

c. Any team may apply to the State Playoff Committee for the granting of an exception if it is specifically allowed for in the MAHA Rules and Regulations. The request for exception must be in writing and it must first be submitted to the District Council by November 15 for the District in which the team is registered. The request for exception must be acted upon by the District Council and its actions evidenced by written endorsement upon the team request. The request must be submitted to the State Playoff Committee for final approval. The decision of the State Playoff Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

Revise As Follows:

c. Any team may apply to the State Playoff Committee for the granting of an exception if it is specifically allowed for in the MAHA Rules and Regulations. The request for exception must be in writing and it must first be submitted to the District Council **by November 15** for the District in which the team is registered. The request for exception must be acted upon by the District Council and its actions evidenced by written endorsement upon the team request. The request must be submitted to the State Playoff Committee for final approval. The decision of the State Playoff Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

- Current rule incorrect
- Algin with current practice

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **MAHA VP Youth / Bob DeSpir**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: 6-1

MAHA Directors Action: 40-3

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-31

SUBJECT: **Serving Suspensions**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XIV. Spring/Summer League** PAGE NO. **59**

Current Rule Reads:

XIV. Spring/summer League

12. All player or coach suspensions shall be served with the team with which the penalty was incurred. If the team the penalty was incurred with has ended its season, the player shall serve the suspension in his/her next game. Note: A player or coach receiving a match penalty is suspended from participating in any USA Hockey games and practices until a hearing is conducted.

Revise As Follows:

19. All player or coach suspensions shall be served with the team with which the penalty was incurred. If the team the penalty was incurred with has ended its season, the player **or coach** shall serve the suspension in his/her next game. Note: A player or coach receiving a match penalty is suspended from participating in any USA Hockey games and practices until a hearing is conducted.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: correct omission in the original rule

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: **39-0**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 2025/26-32 PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: **Reporting Billet Players**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XX: Safe Sport / Abuse Prevention**

PAGE NO. 55

Current Rule Reads:

3. It is recognized that some youth players do leave home to play hockey in a location away from their parents. In those circumstances, the organization or team typically arranges for the player to live with a host or billet family. Having youth players live outside their homes increases risk for abuse and misconduct to occur. It shall be the obligation of each team/association that arrange for players to live with billet families to have written policies and procedures in place to govern the arrangement. The team/organization must assign a billeting coordinator for each team that is billeting players. All non-Michigan billeted players must register with USA Hockey using their parent’s home address. The billeting coordinator will be familiar and follow all rules set forth in the USA Hockey Billeting Policy located in the Safe Sport Handbook. The billeting coordinator for each team will report directly to the District Director in direct charge of his team. No billeted player can be placed on a roster without the District Director’s approval. The District Director will provide a list of Billeted players to the MAHA Youth Vice President. Billeting rules are in effect for Regular, Pre/Post and Spring Summer teams.

Revise As Follows:

3. It is recognized that some youth players do leave home to play hockey in a location away from their parents. In those circumstances, the organization or team typically arranges for the player to live with a host or billet family. Having youth players live outside their homes increases risk for abuse and misconduct to occur. It shall be the obligation of each team/association that arrange for players to live with billet families to have written policies and procedures in place to govern the arrangement. The team/organization must assign a billeting coordinator for each team that is billeting players. All non-Michigan billeted players must register with USA Hockey using their parent’s home address. The billeting coordinator will be familiar and follow all rules set forth in the USA Hockey Billeting Policy located in the Safe Sport Handbook. The billeting coordinator for each team will report directly to the District Director in direct charge of his team. ~~No billeted player can be placed on a roster without the District Director’s approval.~~ **The Assocaion/Club Director of the rostering team** ~~The District Director~~ will provide a list of billeted players **and supporting documentation** to the **MAHA Youth Vice President Vice President for Youth and the USA Hockey MAHA District Registrar**. Billeting rules are in effect for Regular, Pre/Post and Spring Summer teams.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

- align with current practice
- incorporate new MAHA structure

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action:

7-0

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action:

42-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-33

SUBJECT: **S.T.A.R. Hockey Program**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XI. Disciplinary Actions for Players** PAGE NO. 52

Current Rule Reads:

16. Failure of the parent/legal guardian(s) of any registered player to comply with the MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct shall become the disciplinary responsibility of the District Councils where the parent/legal guardian’s player is registered. District Council may refer matters back to the Association level when they deem appropriate. Upon resolution, all findings and actions are to be reported to the MAHA VP of Abuse & Appeals.

17. It is also highly recommended that the parent/legal guardian also view the MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey Program video. This recommendation is especially important regarding parents who are new to the sport of ice hockey.

Revise As Follows:

16. Failure of the parent/legal guardian(s) of any registered player to comply with the **MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian USA Hockey Code of Conduct in the USA Hockey Annual Guidebook** shall become the disciplinary responsibility of the District Councils where the parent/legal guardian’s player is registered. District Council may refer matters back to the Association level when they deem appropriate. Upon resolution, all findings and actions are to be reported to the **MAHA VP of Abuse & Appeals Vice-President of Discipline.**

~~17. It is also highly recommended that the parent/legal guardian also view the MAHA S.T.A.R. Hockey Program video. This recommendation is especially important regarding parents who are new to the sport of ice hockey.~~

Effective Date of Rule: immediatley

Reason For Change:

- STAR progam dormant; removed from the MAHA website
- Align reporting to the new MAHA structure
- STAR program replaced by the USA Hockey Code of Conducts (Administrators, Coaches, Game Officials, Parents, Players, Spectators) in the USA Hockey Annual Guide
- Implement USA Hockey rules

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action:

7-0

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-34

SUBJECT: **Miscellaneous Erroneous Cites**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Miscellaneous** PAGE NO. **misc**.....

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

Page 51 of the Guidebook

8. Exceptions: Any exception to the rules outlined anywhere in Section **X** will be handled by the State Playoff Committee
Should be **IX**

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

Page 49 of the Guidebook

3. The following conditions shall constitute an invalid game:
a. When two registered teams occupy the same ice surface and compete without registered referees, with or without the clock and scoreboard, with or without coaches on the ice and without a completed/signed score sheet. Coaches and players for both teams are subject to suspension under rules **II., B., 1 and 2**. This session does count toward the maximum game count for each team.
Should be **II., D., 1 and 2**

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

Page 49 of the Guidebook

10. A registered team shall not play a non-registered team or a team under suspension by the MAHA or USA Hockey. (Reference paragraph **V., F., 5.**) for allowable play against high school/ prep school varsity teams.)
Should be **IV. F. 5.**

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

Page 49 of the Guidebook

11. All teams must have available an electronic USA Hockey Roster (the USA Hockey Form 1-T) or a paper copy of the Team Roster Form (USA Form 1-T) at all games. If a team is found not adhering to this rule the head coach shall be referred in writing to the proper District Council for action under Rule **II. B.**
Should be **II. C.**

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: correct errors

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: 40-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-35

SUBJECT: Coaches Contacting Players

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. VII. Coaching Requirements PAGE NO. 48

Current Rule Reads:

11. No coach, manager, or other team official, connected with a rostered team may directly or indirectly entice, influence, or contact a player on a rostered team without the written approval of the coach and/or manager of that team. Violation of this rule will result in a recommended suspension of not less than one year

Revise As Follows:

11. No coach, manager, or other team official, connected with a rostered team may directly or indirectly entice, influence, or contact a player on a **non-National bound** rostered team. ~~without the written approval of the coach and/or manager of that team~~. Violation of this rule will result in a recommended suspension of not less than one year. **National bound teams will follow USA Hockey rule III.B. as it pertains to in season contact.**

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

- conflicts with other Guidebook rules
- current rule is incorrect
- align with current MAHA rules
- align with current USA Hockey rules

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: Bob DeSpirt

District Director: Bob DeSpirt

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 38-3

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 2025/26-36 PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: Play in One Classification

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. II. Registration and Rostering PAGE NO. 27

Current Rule Reads:

Q. A rostered team in any of the Youth classifications may not play in more than one (1) classification during the regular season.

Revise As Follows:

~~Q. A rostered team in any of the Youth classifications may not play in more than one (1) classification during the regular season.~~

Delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

- conflicts with other Guidebook rules
- current rule is incorrect
- align with current MAHA rules

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 41-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-37

SUBJECT: Tournaments/Showcases/Jamborees

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. XV. Sanctioned Tournaments

PAGE NO. 59, 60

Current Rule Reads:

XV: Sanctioned tournaments

1. Definition of a Tournament.

Competition, other than normally scheduled league or non-league games, where two or more legally registered teams compete in the same subcontracted arenas within a specified time frame and where playing fees are channeled to a specified person, organization, or location for the purpose of declaring a champion. Gatherings consisting of more than four teams, except Association exchanges, are responsible for those fees required by tournaments even though there are no winners declared.

2. All sanctioned tournaments shall be under the supervision and control of the MAHA President.

3. All sanctioned tournaments must declare their age and division classifications before accepting entries from teams.

4. All tournaments held in Michigan must secure a sanction and sanction number from the MAHA/USA Hockey before a tournament is advertised or promoted or any tournament fees collected. This shall be accomplished by filing an application online that includes the tournament information along with a copy of the rules and regulations and paying the current sanction fee as determined by the MAHA. The tournament sanction number must be displayed in all advertisements and fliers promoting the tournament. At the conclusion of the event, payment of the team fee as determined by the MAHA for each team participating in the tournament is required. The tournament host must complete an electronic form listing the teams that participated in the tournament. Both the list and the final payment must be made within two weeks of the tournament conclusion. A tournament host who fails to follow these procedures may be suspended from all tournament activity for a period of one year.

5. Any tournaments held in Michigan where individuals or groups of players compete together in a 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 tournament, must secure a special event sanction and sanction number from the MAHA before a tournament is advertised or promoted or any tournament fees collected. This shall be accomplished by filing a copy of the rules and regulations of the tournament along with a \$250 sanction fee with the USA Hockey Registrar for Michigan. The tournament host must check to ensure all players are registered with USA Hockey. Acceptable proof is a copy of the current team roster the player is on. A copy of this information must be kept by the tournament director and submitted to the MAHA at the completion of the tournament if requested. A tournament host who fails to follow these procedures may be suspended from all tournament activity for a period of one year.

6. One of the requirements necessary for the MAHA sanction of tournaments is that only USA Hockey or CAHA registered teams and IIHF approved teams, be allowed to enter.

7. Only the Head Coach of any rostered team that participates in a non-sanctioned tournament shall be subject to a recommended suspension of one year. It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that the tournament has secured a sanction, and to record the sanction number before entering any invitational tournament.

8. Programs which fail to roster all of their member teams are not eligible to receive sanctions for any tournaments.

tour.show.jam_5.1.25

9. All tournament pairings and game times must be posted in all arenas in which any of the games are being played before the start of the first game of the tournament. No Youth classification 18U (Midget) or younger) tournament game may be scheduled to begin later than 10:30 pm, or before 6:00 am. However, if properly scheduled games are delayed by circumstances such as injuries or overtime play, these scheduled games may be completed even if they would violate the above curfews.

10. Any team participating in Canadian Tournaments, Exhibition games or League games must complete the appropriate Canadian Travel Application form, via the MAHA web site, and submit it with a \$25.00 application fee. An individual application must be made for each tournament and team attending. For exhibition and league games, an application can be made for the entire season provided all games are listed on the initial application. If subsequent exhibition or league games are added an additional application must be applied for.

11. For tournaments, the number of games played by any player or team on one day shall not be more than two with a minimum of four hours between the finish of the first game and the start of the second and twelve hours between games played on consecutive days. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a two-year suspension of the tournament director. Any violations shall be reported to the Executive Committee for further action. Excludes Adult sanctioned tournaments.

12. Any team which enters a tournament which fails to appear on time for a scheduled game shall (1) forfeit all of its tournament games, (2) shall pay for all expenses, including but not limited to all referees' fees and all ice costs for each forfeited game and shall be denied entry in any further tournaments for the remainder of the season. In unusual circumstances, the tournament committee may waive this rule.

13. All teams, including but not limited to out of state teams, must place on file with the Tournament Director before the first tournament game, a copy of the Team Roster Form which has been approved, signed, and sealed by their USA Hockey or CAHA Registrar. If any team shall fail to comply with this rule that team shall forfeit all games until the proper signed and sealed team roster is presented to the Tournament Director. The team violating this rule shall remain obligated to and shall pay all financial obligations to all opponents for forfeited game costs and the league or tournament entry fees.

14. All travel teams not eligible for State Tournament Play (during the regular season) will not be approved for Canadian Tournaments or Exhibition Games.

Revise As Follows:

XV: **Sanctioned Tournaments/Showcases/Jamborees**

A. Definition of a Tournament.

Competition, other than normally scheduled league or non-league games, where two or more legally registered teams compete in the same subcontracted arenas within a specified time frame and where playing fees are channeled to a specified person, organization, or location for the purpose of declaring a champion. Gatherings consisting of more than four teams, except Association exchanges, are responsible for those fees required by tournaments even though there are no winners declared. **These events require a MAHA sanction.**

B. Definition of a Showcase.

Ice Hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league games, where three (3) or more legally-registered teams compete within a specified time frame where a champion is not declared. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams. These events require a MAHA sanction. Association Exchanges, limited to two (2) Associations, are exempt.

C. Definition of a Jamboree.

Ice hockey competition for players 8 and under, where three or more legally-registered teams compete within a specified time frame. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams. These events require a MAHA sanction. Association Exchanges, limited to two (2) Associations, are exempt.

D. Below apply to events required to be sanctioned as a Tournament, Showcase or Jamboree.

1. All sanctioned **tournaments events** shall be under the supervision and control of the MAHA President.
2. All sanctioned **tournaments events** must declare their age and division classifications before accepting entries from teams.
3. All **tournaments sanctioned events** held in Michigan must secure a sanction and sanction number from the MAHA/USA Hockey before a **tournament sanctioned event** is advertised or promoted or any **tournament sanctioned event** fees collected. This shall be accomplished by filing an application online that includes the **tournament sanctioned event** information along with a copy of the rules and regulations and paying the current sanction fee as determined by the MAHA. The **tournament sanctioned event** sanction number must be displayed in all advertisements and fliers promoting the tournament. At the conclusion of the event, payment of the team fee as determined by the MAHA for each team participating in the **tournament sanctioned event** is required. The **tournament sanctioned event** host must complete an electronic form listing the teams that participated in the **tournament sanctioned event**. Both the list and the final payment must be made within two weeks of the **tournament sanctioned event** conclusion. A **tournament sanctioned event** host who fails to follow these procedures may be suspended from all **tournament sanctioned event** activity for a period of one year.
4. Any **tournaments sanctioned events** held in Michigan where individuals or groups of players compete together in a 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 tournament, must secure a special event sanction and sanction number from the MAHA before a tournament is advertised or promoted or any tournament fees collected. This shall be accomplished by filing a copy of the rules and regulations of the tournament along with a **\$250** sanction fee **defined on the on line application** with the USA Hockey Registrar for Michigan. The tournament host must check to ensure all players are registered with USA Hockey. Acceptable proof is a copy of the current team roster the player is on. A copy of this information must be kept by the tournament director and submitted to the MAHA at the completion of the tournament if requested. A

tournament host who fails to follow these procedures may be suspended from all tournament activity for a period of one year.

5. One of the requirements necessary for the MAHA sanction of **tournaments sanctioned events** is that only USA Hockey or CAHA registered teams and IIHF approved teams, be allowed to enter.

6. Only the Head Coach of any rostered team that participates in a non-sanctioned **tournament event** shall be subject to a recommended suspension of one year. It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that the **tournament sanctioned event** has secured a sanction, and to record the sanction number before entering any invitational **tournament sanctioned event**.

7. Programs which fail to roster all of their member teams are not eligible to receive sanctions for any **tournaments sanctioned events**.

8. All **tournament sanctioned event** pairings and game times must be posted in all arenas in which any of the games are being played before the start of the first game of the **tournament sanctioned event**. No Youth classification 18U (**Midget**) or younger **tournament sanctioned event** game may be scheduled to begin later than 10:30 pm, or before 6:00 am. However, if properly scheduled games are delayed by circumstances such as injuries or overtime play, these scheduled games may be completed even if they would violate the above curfews.

9. Any team participating in Canadian Tournaments, Exhibition games or League games must complete the appropriate Canadian Travel Application form, via the MAHA web site, and submit it with **a \$25.00 an** application fee **defined on the on line application**. An individual application must be made for each tournament and team attending. For exhibition and league games, an application can be made for the entire season provided all games are listed on the initial application. If subsequent exhibition or league games are added an additional application must be applied for.

10. For tournaments, the number of games played by any player or team on one day shall not be more than two with a minimum of four hours between the finish of the first game and the start of the second and twelve hours between games played on consecutive days. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a two-year suspension of the tournament director. Any violations shall be reported to the **MAHA Board of Directors Executive Committee** for further action. Excludes Adult sanctioned **tournaments sanctioned events**.

11. Any team which enters a **tournament sanctioned event** which fails to appear on time for a scheduled game **shall:** (1) forfeit all of its **tournament sanctioned event** games, (2) shall pay for all expenses, including but not limited to all referees' fees and all ice costs for each forfeited game and shall be denied entry in any further **tournaments sanctioned events** for the remainder of the season. In unusual circumstances, the tournament committee may waive this rule.

12. All teams, **including but not limited to out of state teams,** must place on file with the Tournament Director before the first **tournament sanctioned event** game, a copy of the Team Roster Form which has been approved, signed, and sealed by their USA Hockey or CAHA Registrar. If any team shall fail to comply with this rule that team shall forfeit all games until the proper signed and sealed team roster is presented to the Tournament Director. The team violating this rule shall remain obligated to and shall pay all financial obligations to all opponents for forfeited game costs and the league or **tournament sanctioned event** entry fees.

13. All travel teams not eligible for State Tournament Play (during the regular season) will not be approved for Canadian Tournaments or Exhibition Games.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

- include rules on showcases and jamborees consistent with the collection of sanction fees on the MAHA website
- incorporate the new MAHA structure

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: 45-2

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-38

SUBJECT: **Tampering**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XIV. Spring/Summer League**

PAGE NO. 58

Current Rule Reads:

XIV. 4. A player who is a member of an active regular season team may register and play in spring/summer leagues and conditioning programs if he/she has the written permission of his/her Regular Season team coach or manager.

Revise As Follows:

Delete and renumber the subsequent items

XIV. 4. ——— A player who is a member of an active regular season team may register and play in spring/summer leagues and conditioning programs if he/she has the written permission of his/her Regular Season team coach or manager.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: the current Guidebook language violates the tampering rules

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 37-4

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-39

SUBJECT: **Kellogg Award**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XVI> Awards** PAGE NO. **60**

Current Rule Reads:

1. William Kellogg Memorial.

Mr. Kellogg was a former outstanding MAHA officer from Port Huron. The Kellogg family has donated a memorial plaque to be given to a member of the MAHA Board of Directors for outstanding achievement and dedication to amateur hockey. Each year the members of the MAHA Board of Directors will vote for whom they wish to merit this honor. Mr. Kellogg was selected the first honored member.

Revise As Follows:

1. William Kellogg Memorial.

Mr. Kellogg was a former outstanding MAHA officer from Port Huron. The Kellogg family has donated a memorial plaque to be given to a member of the MAHA **Board of Directors Congress** for outstanding achievement and dedication to amateur hockey. Each year the members of the MAHA Board of Directors will vote for whom they wish to merit this honor. Mr. Kellogg was selected the first honored member.

Effective Date of Rule: immediatley

Reason For Change: align with the new MAHA structure

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: **40-1**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-40

SUBJECT: **Add John Stansik Award to official awards**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XVI: Awards** PAGE NO. **61**

Current Rule Reads:

12. John Stansik Association of the Year Award.

Revise As Follows:

12. John Stansik Award:

At each summer meeting this award is presented to the top performing association based upon criteria for building players membership at the highest 8U age level.

Effective Date of Rule: Upon Approval

Reason For Change: Provide definition for the award

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Doug Diroff**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: _____

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

MAHA Directors Action: **41-2**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-41

SUBJECT: Girls 10U – 18U Tier II 30% Rule

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. V.B.4.A PAGE NO. 41

Current Rule Reads:

Teams registered in this age, category, and division that play more than 30% of their games against Tier I opponents shall be ineligible for State Playoffs in any classification. Coaches and managers found in violation of this rule shall have a recommended suspension of no more than one (1) year.

Revise As Follows:

Renumber as 5

5. Teams registered in this age, category, and division that play more than 30% of their games against Tier I opponents. ~~shall be ineligible for State Playoffs in any classification.~~ Coaches and managers found in violation of this rule shall have a recommended suspension of no more than one (1) year.

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately

Reason For Change: Fixing the current Girls Tier II rule from last rule change season. This rule still references State Playoff eligibility. Verbiage will now be consistent throughout.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: Joe Barone

District Director: VP of Youth

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 38-3

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-42

SUBJECT: **Exceptions - Youth**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV.H.** PAGE NO. **38**

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

Exceptions: Any exceptions to the rules outlined in Section IV will be handled by the Youth Committee, except where noted within the rule itself.

Effective Date of Rule: **Immediately**

Reason For Change: This rule was originally withdrawn in the last rule cycle due to bylaws not passing and the youth committee not being formed. This rule is being submitted to provide consistency and guidance through section IV.V. and IX. This rule provides guidance as to which committee will hear specific exceptions instead of SPC hearing all of them.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **VP of Youth**

Rules Committee Action: **7-0**

MAHA Directors Action: **39-1**

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-43

SUBJECT: **Girls Tier III**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **V.C.10.b. 10U-19U girls Tier III** PAGE NO. **23**

Current Rule Reads:

b. A female player playing on a Youth Tier III team may dual roster on a girl’s Tier III team within the same Association. In the absence of a girls team in their Youth Association a female player may roster on a girls Tier III team that is offered in another local Association. Under these circumstances the female player is limited to 10 games on the girls team and the games played will be included in the game count as it applies for all Youth classifications. These games shall not include State playoffs.

Revise As Follows:

A female player playing on a Youth Tier III team may dual roster on a girl’s Tier III team within the same Association. In the absence of a girls team in their Youth B team Association a female player may roster on a girls Tier III team that is offered in another local Association. Under these circumstances the female player is limited to 10 games (played prior to 12/31 of the current season) on the girls team. These games shall not include State playoffs.

Effective Date of Rule: July 2025

Reason For Change:

The rule was submitted and changed but not added to the Girls Tier III section of the guidebook where it also belongs.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

Submitted by: **Jean Laxton**

District Director: **VP girls**

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting Rules Committee Action: 7-0
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting MAHA Directors Action: 39-2

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-44

SUBJECT: Roster Size

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. II. Registration and Rostering PAGE NO. 26, 27

Current Rule Reads:

Page 26

N. 1. Each Youth Classification, Split Season, Invitational Tournament, Pre/Post and Regular season type, team may roster twenty (20) players, including goaltenders. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18).

Page 28

N. 4. Spring/Summer type teams formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game.

Revise As Follows:

N. 1. Each Youth Classification, Split Season, Invitational Tournament, Pre/Post and Regular season type, team may roster twenty (20) players, including goaltenders. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18).

At Youth Tier 1 18U, 16U, and 15O, teams may roster twenty-two (22) players, including goaltenders. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed twenty (20).

Page 28

N. 4. Spring/Summer type teams formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game.

At Youth Tier 1 18U, 16U, and 15O, teams may dress twenty-two; the maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed twenty (20).

Effective Date of Rule: immediatley

Reason For Change: align with USA Hockey rule revisions

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

- 1. Submit to District Director
- 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

- 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
- 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 41-2

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-45

SUBJECT: Youth Age & Classifications

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. IV.A PAGE NO. 9

Current Rule Reads:

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.
1. The Tier I category and AAA Division teams are the highest level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10, 11 & 12, and 13 which are designated as Travel Category AAA Division teams. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications teams shall be designated as Tier I Category and the Division will be AAA. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, & 13 age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.

Revise As Follows:

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.
1. Each Tier I Organization must have teams at the following recognized AAA levels:
a. Travel Category: AAA Division 10U Major, 11U Minor, 12U Major
b. Tier I Category: 13Only, 14U, 15Only, 16Only and 18U.
c. The 13O, 15O, and 16Only categories are to include only players who are in that birth year.
d. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs

Effective Date of Rule:

Reason For Change:

To meet USA Hockey Requirements

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

- 1. Submit to District Director
- 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
- 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
- 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **B. Yohe USA Hockey Registrar MI**
District Director: _____
Rules Committee Action: 7-0
MAHA Directors Action: 40-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY MAY 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via e-mail or on a disk)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: **13 Only Nomenclature**

MAHA

USA

CHANGE

NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications** PAGE NO. 30, 31

Current Rule Reads:

Page 30 of the Guidebook

IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.

1. The Tier I category and AAA Division teams are the highest level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10, 11 & 12, and 13 which are designated as Travel Category AAA Division teams. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications teams shall be designated as Tier I Category and the Division will be AAA. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, & 13 age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.

Page 31 of the Guidebook

5. b. Each Tier I Organizations must have teams at the following recognized AAA levels: 10U (Major), 12U (Minor and Major), 14U (Minor and Major), 15 & 16 Only, 18U (Major). The 15 Only and 16 Only categories are to include only those players who are in that birth year. Organizations wishing to apply without a full complement of teams may do so but must provide a 5-year plan that demonstrates a sustainable program working towards having teams at all the recognized levels.

5. c. Tier I organizations are limited to the following non-Michigan players per organization:

a. 10U Tier I - Zero (0)

b. 11U Tier I - Zero (0)

c. 12U Tier I – One (1)

d. 13U Tier I – Two (2)

e. 14U Tier I – Five (5)

f. 15O Tier I – Six (6)

g. 16O Tier I – Seven (7)

h. 18U Tier I – Nine (9) and must be less than 50% of the team roster

Revise As Follows:

Page 30 of the Guidebook

IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.

1. The Tier I **category and** AAA Division teams are the highest level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10, 11 & 12, and **13 Only** which are designated as Travel Category AAA Division teams. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications teams shall be **designated as Tier I** Category and the Division will be AAA. The **13 Only**, 14, 15 **Only**, **16 Only** and 17 & 18 age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound **eligibility** requirements. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, **& 13** age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all **requirements** to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.

2. Tier 1 teams are teams that may participate within a Tier 1 MAHA/USA Hockey sanctioned league that may involve participation with similar teams from Michigan and from across the country.

Page 31 of the Guidebook

b. Each Tier I Organizations must have teams at the following recognized AAA levels: 10U (Major), 12U (Minor and Major), 14U (Minor and Major), **15 Only** & 16 Only, 18U (Major). The **13 Only**, 15 Only, and 16 Only categories are to include only those players who are in that birth year. Organizations wishing to apply without a full complement of teams may do so but must provide a 5-year plan that demonstrates a sustainable program working towards having teams at all the recognized levels.

c. Tier I organizations are limited to the following non-Michigan players per organization:

- a. 10U Tier I - Zero (0)
- b. 11U Tier I - Zero (0)
- c. 12U Tier I – One (1)
- d. **13O** Tier I – Four (4)
- e. 14U Tier I – Four (4)
- f. 15O Tier I – Six (6)
- g. 16O Tier I – Six (6)
- h. 18U Tier I – Nine (9) and must be less than 51% of the team roster

Effective Date of Rule: immediatley

Reason For Change: align with USA Hockey rules

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action:

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-47

SUBJECT: **Adopt 130 nomenclature for Youth**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications**

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams

PAGE NO. 30

Current Rule Reads:

IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.

1. The Tier I category and AAA Division teams are the highest level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10, 11 & 12, and 13 which are designated as Travel Category AAA Division teams. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications teams shall be designated as Tier I Category and the Division will be AAA. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, & 13 age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.

Revise As Follows:

IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams.

1. The Tier I category and AAA Division teams are the highest level of competitive hockey in Michigan. Teams in this category are restricted to only those in approved Tier I organizations. The recognized Youth age classifications shall be the Youth 10, 11 & 12, and 13 which are designated as Travel Category AAA Division teams. The 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications teams shall be designated as Tier I Category and the Division will be AAA. The **13 Only**, 14, 15 Only, 16 Only and 17 & 18 age classifications are national bound classifications and the teams must meet all national bound eligibility requirements. Teams in the Youth 10, 11 & 12, **& 13** age classifications are eligible for MAHA State playoffs and must meet all requirements to be eligible for MAHA State playoffs.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align with USA Hockey nomenclature

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 41-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-48

SUBJECT: Tier 1 Vertical Integration; 16O, 15O, 14U

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications;
A. Tier I Category and AAA Division Teams

PAGE NO. 31, 32

Current Rule Reads:

IV. A.

7. In the Tier 1 classifications, player movement will be allowed as follows:

- a. Players shall only move within their own organization.
- b. 14U shall not move up to any higher classification. 15 Only may move up to the 16 Only classification and 16 Only may move up to the 18U classification. Players using the player movement rule will be allowed to move up and down for a maximum of eight (8) games per Regular season.
- c. Player movement is only permitted for injuries or to give players an opportunity to play at the next level. A player shall not be moved up if all your roster players, 18 skaters and 2 goalies, will be present for the game. Movement is not permitted to replace a player serving a Misconduct or Match penalty.
- e. Players exercising this option will not have a 72-hour waiting period and will not need to be released from one team and added to the other team they are moving to.
- f. Player movement will be allowed up to December 23 of the current playing season. Player movement will be allowed to fill spots of players that move up to a Junior team until the date established by USA Hockey each year.
- g. Player movement is allowed to USHL, NAHL Junior teams and USA Hockey NTDP programs. This movement is allowed until a date that is established by USA Hockey each year.
- h. For player movement tracking, an individual appointed by the State Playoff Committee Chair will be assigned to the Tier 1 category. Teams will submit to this individual the Player Movement Form every time every time a player moves up. This will track how many games an individual player has moved up. Coaches who do not report player movement or exceed the maximum number of moves will be subject to disciplinary actions and suspension of up to one year.

Revise As Follows:

Combine the current MAHA language with the USAH rule language

7. In the Tier 1 classifications, player movement will be allowed as follows:

- a. Players shall only move within their own organization.**
- b. 14U shall not move up to any higher classification. 15 Only may move up to the 16 Only classification and 16 Only may move up to the 18U classification. Players using the player movement rule will be allowed to move up and down for a maximum of eight (8) games per Regular season.**

7. Vertical roster movement shall be permitted at the Tier I Youth 150, 16U and 18U levels within the same Organization through February 1st. Only those players otherwise eligible for a different age category within their Organization and currently appearing on a Tier I roster in the Organization shall be eligible to play on a different Tier I team from that Organization without being added to the official roster, subject to the following conditions:

a. Each Player is limited to a total of 8 games played outside of their official roster between September 1 and February 1.

b. Players may only compete at one age level per day.

c. Tier I teams shall submit the Vertical Movement Tracking Form to the applicable Registrar for each game a player plays on a different roster within their Organization under this Vertical Roster Integration rule.

d. All other current National Championship rules, including the 20/10 rule and the 12/31 roster deadline will stay in effect. Games played shall not count toward the 20/10 rule until added to the official roster.

e. If a player receives a suspension in any game of a tournament or showcase, the player must serve the suspension at the age group in which they are playing at the time of the suspension. If a player receives a suspension in the last game of a tournament or a showcase, they player will serve the suspension with the official rostered team. Any suspension incurred by a player under this rule outside of a tournament or showcase, must be served with the team in which the player is officially rostered. Players under suspension are not eligible for vertical integration movement until the suspension is served with the team in which the player is officially rostered.

f. Players are not eligible for vertical movement to a team in which they were previously officially added to that team's roster and then dropped.

g. Player movement is only permitted for injuries or to give players an opportunity to play at the next level. A player shall not be moved up if all **the team's rostered** players, **18 skaters and 2 goalies, twenty-two (22)**, will be present for the game. Movement is not permitted to replace a player serving a Misconduct or Match penalty.

h. Players exercising this option will not have a 72-hour waiting period and will not need to be released from one team and added to the other team they are moving to.

~~i. Player movement will be allowed up to December 23 of the current playing season.~~ Player movement will be allowed to fill spots of players that move up to a Junior team until the date established by USA Hockey each year.

j. Player movement is allowed to USHL, NAHL Junior teams and USA Hockey NTDP programs. This movement is allowed until a date that is established by USA Hockey each year.

~~k. For player movement tracking, an individual appointed by the State Playoff Committee Chair will be assigned to the Tier 1 category. Teams will submit to this individual the Player Movement Form every time every time a player moves up. This will track how many games an individual player has moved up.~~ Coaches who do not report player movement or exceed the maximum number of moves will be subject to disciplinary actions and suspension of up to one year.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: incorporate USA Hockey rule changes on vertical intergration and roster size

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 39-1

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-49

SUBJECT: **Completion of 17 Games**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **IX. Rules and Regulations for District and State Playoffs** PAGE NO. 50, 51

Current Rule Reads:

- 4. Number of Games for Eligibility
 - a. In National Bound Divisions, individual players must participate in ten (10) USA Hockey sanctioned games before the earliest of February 1st or before the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs with the team for which they will participate in District and State Playoffs. Players on teams in classifications that do not have District Playoffs have until their first game of State Playoffs to reach ten (10) games. For all Non-National bound divisions, the number of games is reduced to seven (7).
 - b. In order to qualify for State Playoffs, all National Bound teams must play at least seventeen (17) games in its classification, category, and division before the earliest of February 1st or before the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs, except for Girl’s Classification and Non-National Bound teams, which must play at least fourteen (14) games in their classification, category, and division before February 1st.
 - c. Exceptions to a. or b. may be granted by the State Playoff Committee.

Revise As Follows:

- 4. Number of Games for Eligibility
 - a. In National Bound Divisions, individual players must participate in ten (10) USA Hockey sanctioned games before **the earliest of February 1st or before** the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs with the team for which they will participate in District and State Playoffs. Players on teams in classifications that do not have District Playoffs have until their first game of State Playoffs to reach ten (10) games. For all Non-National bound divisions, the number of games is reduced to seven (7).
 - b. In order to qualify for State Playoffs, all National Bound teams must play at least seventeen (17) games in its classification, category, and division **before the earliest of February 1st or** before the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs, except for Girl’s Classification and Non-National Bound teams, which must play at least fourteen (14) games in their classification, category, **and division before February 1st** before the first regularly scheduled game of District Playoffs. **For teams that do not have District Playoffs, teams have until their first game of the MAHA State Championships to meet the game requirements.**
 - c. Exceptions to a. or b. may be granted by the State Playoff Committee.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align with 2024-2025 USA Hockey rules

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 42-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-50

SUBJECT: Substitute Goalkeepers

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. II. Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams PAGE NO. 26

Current Rule Reads:

N. Substitute Goalkeepers.

A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own Association or District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. For a non-National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team classification. For the National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a lower classification team.

A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury to the regular goalie. If a team elects this method for a substitute goalie, the team may have only nineteen (19) players registered at any time so as not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed.

Add sub Goalie Chart

Revise As Follows:

N. Substitute Goalkeepers.

- 1) A team may pick up a substitute goalie from within its own Association or District if it does not already have a spare goalie registered. For a non-National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a team of equal or lower age classification and equal or lower team classification. For the National bound category, the substitute goalie must be registered in the current season on a lower classification team.
- 2) A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury to the regular goalie. **If a team elects this method for a substitute goalie, the team may have only nineteen (19) players registered at any time so as not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed.**
- 3) **Injury is defined as a player who is injured or medically unable to compete. Players out due to illness, with a supporting doctor’s note, will be deemed as “injured” for the intent of this rule. Thus a substitute goalie shall be allowed. Common situations where a substitute goalie shall not be permitted: goalie unavailable due to family vacation, conflicts with school or sporting events, team has a rostered back-up goalie who is eligible to participate, etc.**
- 4) **Teams requesting a substitute goalie must fill out the proper form found on the MAHA website and obtain the District Chair’s signature. Directors or Council members are not eligible to approve requests.**
- 5) **Consult the “MAHA District and State Championship Guidebook” for additional guidance.**

Add sub-Goalie Chart

The Substitute Goalie Chart is contained in the “MAHA District & State Playoff Handbook”.

Effective Date of Rule: immedialtely

Reason For Change:

- align with the current MAHA rules
- align with letter from MAHA VP of Youth and Exec VP on 11/5/2024
- roster size inconsequential as subsitute goalies are not rostered

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt / Joe Barone**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action: 6-1

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: 38-45

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-51

SUBJECT: Billeting duration

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XII. Safe Sport / Abuse Prevention**

PAGE NO. 54

Current Rule Reads:

2. MAHA Screening Policy.

It is the policy of the MAHA that it will not allow participation in its programs any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (anyone under the age of majority) who refuses to consent to be screened by the MAHA before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in the MAHA’s programs. This policy includes coaches, referees, MAHA personnel, Association personnel, League personnel; any age of majority participant that comes in contact with minors within MAHA’s programs and those persons who billet on a continuing basis. A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as a volunteer or employee of the MAHA if the person has:

Revise As Follows:

2. MAHA Screening Policy.

It is the policy of the MAHA that it will not allow participation in its programs any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (anyone under the age of majority) who refuses to consent to be screened by the MAHA before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in the MAHA’s programs. This policy includes coaches, referees, MAHA personnel, Association personnel, League personnel; any age of majority participant that comes in contact with minors within MAHA’s programs and those persons who billet **on a continuing basis**. A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as a volunteer or employee of the MAHA if the person has:

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align with the current SafeSport policies from the Center dated 12/31/2024

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 42-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-54

SUBJECT: Relocate definitions of sexual abuse, physical abuse, hazing

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XII. Safe Sport / Abuse Prevention** PAGE NO. 55, 56, 57

Current Rule Reads:

4. Definitions.

a. Sexual Abuse.

Sexual abuse is when A) the perpetrator touches a child for the sexual arousal or gratification of either the perpetrator or the child or when a child touches the perpetrator at the perpetrator’s request or with his/her consent such as but not limited to touching a child’s intimate body parts, touching the clothing over a child’s intimate body parts, fondling, oral, genital or anal penetration (including kissing), intercourse, rape, having a child touch the perpetrator’s intimate body parts. B) Any charge brought by governmental authority for solicitation on the internet, or other electronic or telephone devices, of a minor(s) for purposes of sex (an illegal or immoral act).

b. Physical Abuse.

Physical abuse is physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury or having physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury, including but not limited to hitting, swatting, twisting limbs, kicking, striking with an object, biting, poking, pushing, or shoving or forcing the victim into a barrier.

10. Hazing Definition: Conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive, or physically harmful. Any player, team official, executive member of a Team, Club or Association having been party to or having had knowledge of any degrading hazing, or initiation rite without reporting or taking action on it shall be subject to suspension from playing or holding office with any Team, Club, Association, or the MAHA

Revise As Follows:

4. Definitions.

Refer to the Safe Sport Program Handbook published by the U.S. Center for SafeSport for the definition of prohibited conduct:

- **Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse**
- **Physical Misconduct**
- **Emotional Misconduct**
- **Bullying**
- **Threats**
- **Harassment**
- **Hazing**
- **Abuse of Process & Other Misconduct**

relocate definitions sexual abuse physical abuse hazing

~~a. Sexual Abuse.~~

~~Sexual abuse is when A) the perpetrator touches a child for the sexual arousal or gratification of either the perpetrator or the child or when a child touches the perpetrator at the perpetrator's request or with his/her consent such as but not limited to touching a child's intimate body parts, touching the clothing over a child's intimate body parts, fondling, oral, genital or anal penetration (including kissing), intercourse, rape, having a child touch the perpetrator's intimate body parts. B) Any charge brought by governmental authority for solicitation on the internet, or other electronic or telephone devices, of a minor(s) for purposes of sex (an illegal or immoral act).~~

~~b. Physical Abuse.~~

~~Physical abuse is physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury or having physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury, including but not limited to hitting, swatting, twisting limbs, kicking, striking with an object, biting, poking, pushing, or shoving or forcing the victim into a barrier.~~

~~10. Hazing Definition: Conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive, or physically harmful. Any player, team official, executive member of a Team, Club or Association having been party to or having had knowledge of any degrading hazing, or initiation rite without reporting or taking action on it shall be subject to suspension from playing or holding office with any Team, Club, Association, or the MAHA~~

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

- align the MAHA with the definitions in the current SafeSport Handbook from the Center dated 12/31/2024
- remove the outdated definitions from the MAHA Guidebook and direct to the Safe Sport Handbook from the Center for the most current definitions and prohibited conduct
- keeps the MAHA Guidebook from having to be updated as the Center updates their definitions and prohibited conduct

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Bob DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 40-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-55

SUBJECT: **BYLAW 11: Amendments**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. _____

PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

BYLAW 11: AMENDMENTS

A. Proposed changes to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations shall be submitted by members to the Rules Committee Chairperson and must be received by May 15 of odd-numbered years. All proposals must be submitted on the MAHA rules change proposal form and must include all of the required information to be accepted by the Rules Committee Chairperson. All proposals are to be submitted in electronic format. All such proposals shall be read at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting with a recommendation offered by the Rules Committee. An advisory vote of the MAHA Congress shall be taken at this time. All proposals which do not receive support from a majority of the MAHA Congress Representatives voting at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting shall be rejected.

In an exceptional circumstance, a rule proposal can be submitted in an even-numbered year. To be placed on the agenda, the proposal must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote by both the Rules Committee and by the MAHA Board of Directors. Once placed on the agenda, the proposal shall follow the approval process as specified in Bylaw 11.

B. Amendments (not new proposals) may be made to said proposals by MAHA Congress Representatives at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting by a majority vote or by a three-fourths vote at the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress.

C. Between the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting and Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress, MAHA Congress Representatives shall discuss the merits of the various proposals carried forward in their home Districts.

D. For Bylaw and Rules and Regulations amendments, adoption shall require a two-thirds vote of the MAHA Congress Representatives voting at the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress.

E. Any Bylaw or Rule change proposal determined by the MAHA Board of Directors to be the same, or substantially the same, as one rejected at the previous MAHA Annual Summer Meeting or Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress cannot be placed on the agenda unless it receives a two-thirds vote by the MAHA Congress Representatives voting at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting.

F. All proposals received after the May 15 deadline must receive approval of three-fourths of the MAHA Congress Representatives voting at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting or Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress to be placed on the agenda.

G. Proposals to change these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations may be incorporated in a Special Committee report. The Special Committee is not bound by the timelines governed by these bylaws. Proposed changes must be published 14 days in advance of meetings of the MAHA

Congress. If the Committee report includes rule or Bylaw changes then the MAHA Congress shall vote separately from the report on the proposed changes and shall pass the rule or Bylaw change by a two-thirds majority at either the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress or the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting.

- H. Any amendments to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations necessitated by amendments to USA Hockey Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations shall be automatically effected by the Rules Committee and reported to the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress or MAHA Annual Summer Meeting following the adoption of such amendments by USA Hockey.
- I. In the event of a state of emergency declared by the federal government or State of Michigan or other governmental action that, in the determination of the MAHA Board of Directors, impairs the Association from carrying out the purposes of the Association, these Bylaws or the Rules and Regulations may be amended as follows: A Special Meeting of the MAHA Congress may be called for the purpose of considering amendments on an emergent basis without using the normal amendment process indicated in this Bylaw sections A through H. The Special Meeting for considering such amendments may be called by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the MAHA Board of Directors. The Special Meeting must follow the notice requirements applicable to Special Meetings contained in Bylaw 7. Adoption of any emergent amendments to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations requires a two-thirds vote of the MAHA Congress Representatives voting at the Special Meeting.
- J. Within one year of enactment of these Bylaws, the MAHA Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting, may by a two-thirds vote, amend these Bylaws to correct any errors or make any other changes that do not substantially impair the intent of these Bylaws. Notification of any such amendment by the MAHA Board of Directors will be sent to the MAHA Congress by the MAHA Secretary immediately following said regularly scheduled meeting.

Revise As Follows:

BYLAW 11: AMENDMENTS

- A. Proposed changes to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations shall be submitted by members to the Rules Committee Chairperson, and must be received by May 15 of odd-numbered years. All proposals must be submitted on the MAHA rules change proposal form and must include all of the required information to be accepted by the Rules Committee Chairperson. All proposals are to be submitted in electronic format. All such proposals shall be read at the Summer Meeting **of odd-numbered years** with a recommendation offered by the Rules Committee. An advisory vote of the **MAHA Congress** shall be taken at this time. All Proposals which do not receive support from a majority of the **MAHA Congress** voting at the Summer Meeting **of odd-numbered years** shall be rejected.

~~In an exceptional circumstance, a rule proposal can be submitted in an even-numbered year. To be placed on the agenda, the proposal must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote by both the Rules Committee and by the Executive Committee. Once placed on the agenda, the proposal shall follow the approval process as specified in Bylaw 11.~~

- B. Amendments (not new proposals) may be made to said proposals by **members of the MAHA Congress** at the Summer meeting **of odd-numbered years** by a majority vote, or by a three-fourths vote at the Winter meeting **of even-numbered years**.
- C. Between the Summer and Winter meetings, **the MAHA Congress** shall discuss the merits of the various proposals carried forward in their home Districts.
- D. For Bylaw and Rules and Regulations amendments, adoption shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the **MAHA Congress** voting at the Winter meeting **of even numbered years**.
- E. Any Bylaw or Rule change proposal determined by the **MAHA Board of Directors** to be the same, or substantially the same as one rejected at the previous Summer or Winter meeting cannot be placed on the agenda unless it receives a two-thirds majority vote by the **MAHA Congress** members voting at the Summer meeting.
- F. All proposals received after the May 15 deadline must receive approval of three-fourths of the **MAHA Congress** voting at the Summer **of odd-numbered years** or Winter meeting **of even-numbered years** to be placed on the agenda.
- G. Proposals to change these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations may be incorporated in a special committee report. If the committee report includes rule or bylaw changes then the **MAHA Congress** shall vote separately from the report on the proposed changes and shall pass the rule or bylaw change by a two-thirds majority at the Winter meeting.
- H. Any amendments to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations necessitated by amendments to USA Hockey Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations shall be automatically effected by the rules committee and reported to the board members at the Winter or Summer meeting following the adoption of such amendments by USA Hockey.
- I. In the event of a state of emergency declared by the federal government or State of Michigan or other governmental action that, in the determination of the **MAHA Board of Directors**, impairs the Association from carrying out the purposes of the Association, these Bylaws or the Rules and Regulations may be amended as follows: A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors may be called for the purpose of considering amendments on an emergent basis without using the normal amendment process indicated in this Bylaw sections A through H. The Special Meeting for considering such amendments may be called by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the **MAHA Board of Directors** The Special Meeting must follow the notice requirements applicable to Special Meetings contained in Bylaw 7. Adoption of any emergent amendments to these Bylaws and/or the Rules and Regulations requires a two-thirds vote of the MAHA Congress voting.
- K. In an exceptional circumstance, a rule proposal can be submitted 90 days prior to the Summer meeting of the Congress of odd number years or 90 days prior to a Winter meeting of the Congress of even number years to the Rules Committee Chairman. To be placed on the agenda, the proposal must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote by both the Rules Committee and by the MAHA Board of Directors. For Bylaw and Rules and Regulations amendments, adoption shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the MAHA Congress voting at the Summer meeting of odd-numbered years or Winter meeting of even numbered years.**

Effective Date of Rule: immediatley

Reason For Change: clean up a convoluted process

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Dan Pozdol**

District Director:

Rules Committee Action: 7-0

MAHA Directors Action: 43-0

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-56

SUBJECT: **District Voting Eligibility**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Bylaws 3.a (5)**

PAGE NO. 12

Current Rule Reads:

(5) Each registered member participant shall be allowed to cast one (1) vote. Ballots shall be cast electronically. The Secretary shall record the votes cast and submit the results to the MAHA Board of Directors for certification.

Revise As Follows:

(5) Each registered member participant **and volunteers rostered on an active MAHA District Council or MAHA Board of Director roster** shall be allowed to cast one (1) vote. Ballots shall be cast electronically. The Secretary shall record the votes cast and submit the results to the MAHA Board of Directors for certification.

Effective Date of Rule: *Immediately*

Reason For Change:

Grant District Council members and Directors the ability to vote in their own District election.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Winter Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Summer Meeting

Submitted by: **Joe Barone**

District Director: **Joe Barone**

Rules Committee Action: _____

MAHA Directors Action: _____

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: Limit Out of District Requirements and Delete Closest to the Rink Option

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. multiple sites..... PAGE NO. multiple.....

IV.B.2. page 33 14U – 18U Tier II Category and AA Division and 10U-12U Travel Category and AA Division

Current Rule Reads:

- 2. 10U-14U classification teams shall have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered
- 3. Any team in the youth 16U or 18U age classification shall be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of-District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residency Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player but may submit an exception where applicable.
- 4. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closet to their residence based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.

Revise As Follows:

- ~~2. 10U-14U classification teams shall have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered~~
- ~~3. Any team in the youth 16U or 18U age classification shall be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of-District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residency Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player but may submit an exception where applicable.~~
- ~~4. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closet to their residence based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.~~

2. 10U-14U Classification teams must ensure that no more than 50% of their rostered players reside outside the District in which the team is registered provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residency Policy and are MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to three (3) Out-of-State players (bordering states, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana only).

3. A player who participated with an Association/Club at both 7U and 8U birth years regardless of residing in a different District or State (bordering states, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana only) shall be considered an In-District player for that Association/Club continuing into the 10U Classification. **Teams must follow all applicable USAH Rostering Rules.**

4. A player whose USA Hockey registered home address falls within the same Michigan Public School District as the Association's/Club's home rink shall be considered an In-District player for that Association/Club.

5. Any team in the Youth 16U or 18U Age Classification shall be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of-District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residency Policy and are MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to three (3) Out-of-State players (bordering states, Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana only).

IV.C. pages 34-35 10U -18U Travel Category and A Division

Current Rule Reads:

3. May have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered. In the 16U (Midget) classification teams will be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residence Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player, but may submit an exception where applicable.
4. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closet to their residence based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.

Revise As Follows:

- ~~3. May have no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered. In the 16U (Midget) classification teams will be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residence Policy, and MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to one (1) Out-of-State player, but may submit an exception where applicable.~~
- ~~4. Michigan resident players of any age classification are permitted to play for an Association/Club that has the rink closet to their residence based on the shortest distance by roads calculated by Google Maps and will not be counted as an out of District player if it is beyond District boundaries. Player residence documentation must be provided at the time of team registration with MAHA/USA Hockey and approval received from both the respective districts.~~
3. Teams must ensure that no more than 50% of their rostered players reside outside the District in which the team is registered provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residency Policy and are MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to three (3) Out-of-State players (bordering states, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana only).
4. A player who participated with an Association/Club at both the 7U and 8U birth years regardless of residing in a different District or State (bordering states, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana only) shall be considered an In-District player for that Association/Club continuing into the 9U Classification. **Teams must follow all applicable USAH Rostering Rules.**
5. A player whose USA Hockey registered home address falls within the same Michigan Public School District as the Association's/Club's home rink shall be considered an In-District player for that Association/Club.
6. In the 16U Classification teams will be allowed an unlimited number of Out-of District players provided those players are Michigan residents, as defined by the MAHA Residence Policy and are MAHA registered participants. Said teams will be restricted to three (3) Out-of-State players (bordering states, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Indiana only).

Effective Date of Rule: 2026-2027 Regular Season

Reason For Change:

This current rule applies ONLY to Youth Tier 2 and A at 10U, 12U, 14U; all other Tier 2/A divisions have no restrictions

Allow parents/players to skate at the Association of their choice

Tier III teams currently have no out of district restrictions

Tier I Youth and Girls have no restrictions

Streamline administrative approvals

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Out of District Committee**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: **6-1**

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: **Disciplinary Actions**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XI**. Disciplinary Actions for Players, Team Officials, Leagues, or Others (Except Referees)

Current Rule Reads:

5. If, as a result of a hearing, the allegation of deliberate assault on a game official (referee, linesman, official scorekeepers, game timekeepers, penalty timekeepers, goal judges, statisticians, and public address announcers) is sustained, the player or team official shall be suspended for a minimum period of one (1) year, followed by probation for a period to be determined by the District Council.
14. Any disciplinary circumstance not elsewhere covered in these rules will be assigned by the President or by the MAHA Board of Directors to the proper District Council for a hearing. In circumstances where multiple Districts are involved, the MAHA Board of Directors may conduct the hearing.

Revise As Follows:

5. If, as a result of a hearing, the allegation of deliberate assault on a game official (referee, linesman, official scorekeepers, game timekeepers, penalty timekeepers, goal judges, statisticians, and public address announcers) is sustained, the player or team official shall be suspended for a minimum period of one (1) year, followed by probation for a period to be determined by the **Disciplinary Authority District Council**.
14. Any disciplinary circumstance not elsewhere covered in these rules will be assigned by the President or by the MAHA Board of Directors to the proper **District Council Disciplinary Authority** for a hearing. In circumstances where multiple Districts are involved, the MAHA Board of Directors may conduct the hearing.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align all bylaws with unified discipline guidelines

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Supplemental Discipline Committee**

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: _____

MAHA Directors Action: _____

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-033

SUBJECT: **Awards**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Rules XVI. Awards** PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

10. George Atkinson Award.

At each Summer Meeting, this award is presented to those persons who have completed more than twenty-five consecutive years in the MAHA Congress.

11. Jerry Moran Award.

At each Summer Meeting, the Jerry Moran Award recognizes an individual who has contributed significantly to the officiating program.

Renumber subsequent sections

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

Correct omission in Guidbook for service beyond 25 years

Document existng awards previously not included in the guidebook

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **R DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting Rules Committee Action:

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-044

SUBJECT:

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. XIII: League Requirements.....

PAGE NO.....

Current Rule Reads:

XIII: League requirements

1. General League Requirements.

The following conditions shall constitute a commitment and obligation of a team to participate as a member team of a league:

- a. If an official of a team, or an authorized official of the program of which the team is a member, files an application for entry into a league in a situation where an application is the standard method used by that league over a period of years, and the application is accepted.
 - b. If an official of a team, or an authorized official of the program of which the team is a member, pays an entry fee for entry into a league, in a situation where the payment of an entry fee is the standard method used by that league over a period of years.
 - c. If no answer is given to an application in two calendar weeks, the team may apply elsewhere.
2. A league consists of four (4) or more teams in the same age classification, category and division playing a regular schedule of games.
3. A league must declare its age classifications and divisions before accepting entries from teams. Leagues may form checking and/or non-checking divisions in the 18, 16, and 14 and under classifications.
4. No team may play in a Canadian League unless permission is secured in writing from the USA Hockey, the MAHA, the Ontario Hockey Association, and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.
5. A Michigan team which has qualified in a Canadian League may apply to its District Council and the State Playoff Committee for permission to participate in District and State Playoffs.
6. All teams from other USA Hockey Affiliates or Hockey Federations wishing to participate in a Michigan-based league, need their Affiliates or Federation's written approval submitted to the MAHA President and a copy to the League they wish to join, one week prior to the league commitment date. Permission is for each league's playing season. A copy of final approval must be sent to each USA Hockey Associate Registrar.
7. The constitution, structure, policy, Bylaws, rules and regulations of Youth, Girls or High School leagues shall incorporate the following principles and policies:
- a. All leagues comprised of teams from more than one Association, Club and/or Independent teams (excluding Adult Men and Women) must file a copy of its constitution and/or Bylaws with the MAHA President by October 1 of each year. Violation of this rule may result in non-sanctioning, suspension, or other action toward the league.
 - b. The President shall review league articles, constitution, Bylaws, and rules and if the President does not mail written comments to the league within thirty (30) days of receipt, the articles, constitution, Bylaws, and rules will be deemed approved. The President shall have the authority to require compliance with the above principles and policies and to recommend non-sanctioning, suspension, or other action toward the league to the **MAHA Board of Directors** for their approval.

- c. The league's rules and regulations shall provide that:
- 1) The League's rules incorporate USA Hockey and MAHA rules and regulations and playing rules and exceptions may vary from USA Hockey and MAHA rules and regulations providing they are more stringent and without major change with the exception of age classifications. Age classifications must be strictly adhered to, from 6U through 18U, High School and all Girls classifications, as defined in the MAHA Guide Section II and III., which will not be considered to be within the "more stringent" policy.
 - 2) If the league does not automatically permit all USA Hockey and MAHA qualifying teams to participate in the league in the appropriate classification within the league's geographic area, then the rules should clearly define eligibility criteria for all teams. In such cases the rules should also contain procedures for teams to apply and a review or appeal procedure if the team is initially denied the right to participate in the league. The same rules should also apply to a league that admits Associations or sponsor organizations rather than individual teams. This requirement shall not prevent Tier I leagues from denying participation on the basis of teams not being competitive so long as there are criteria, application procedures and a review or appeal process set forth in the league's rules and regulations.

Revise As Follows:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 remain unchanged

7. The constitution, structure, policy, Bylaws, rules and regulations of Youth, Girls or High School leagues shall incorporate the following principles and policies:
 - a. All leagues comprised of teams from more than one Association, Club and/or Independent teams (excluding Adult Men and Women) must file a copy of its constitution and/or Bylaws with the MAHA President by **October August** 1 of each year. Violation of this rule may result in non-sanctioning, suspension, or other action toward the league.

8. All leagues (Youth, Girls', High School, Adult) are required to complete the MAHA Affiliate Agreement by August 1 of each year.

Effective Date of Rule: immediatley

Reason For Change:

- 1) Document the requirement for leagues to complete an affiliate agreement
- 2) Align with the League Affiliate Agreement
- 3) Move the submission date to the MAHA from the leagues prior to the beginning of season play

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES: Submitted by: **League Affiliate Agreement Committee**

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Submit to District Director | District Director: Bob DeSpirt |
| 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee | |
| 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting | Rules Committee Action: |
| 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting | MAHA Directors Action: |

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L05

SUBJECT: **Players Properly Equipped to Play**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO.

PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

No Current Rule

Revise As Follows:

Prior to the start of each game, the head coach of each team is required to verify to the referee that all players are wearing all required equipment per USA Hockey Rules. For a violation of this rule, referees will file a Game Report, of which a copy will go to the team's Local District Council. Any violations after the first one, shall cause the Head Coach to be suspended for 1 game per incident. An email will be sent to the Association President on file, and it will be that person's responsibility to inform the head coach in question of her/his suspension. Team Warnings in-game and Player Penalties for equipment violations will still be assessed and served in the normal manner.

Effective Date of Rule: Spring Season of 2026 if possible, if not, then the start of the 2026-2027 season.

Reason For Change: ***In the past, all onus has been placed on game officials to monitor and police things such as no mouthguards, neckguards, etc. Game officials take much abuse when a penalty like this is called. It is time for responsibility to move to the team and it's coaches and the local Associations.***

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Greg Hames – D4 Council**

District Director: **John Popma**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L07

SUBJECT: **Girls' League Participation**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **V. multiple sections** PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

- V. A. 11.
- V. B. 9.

Teams shall be registered in the age Classification in which they participate for league play.

Revise As Follows:

Delete in both places and renumber

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately

Reason For Change: update to conform to current practices

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

District Director: **Jean Laxton**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26 - L08

SUBJECT: Girls Rostering Exception

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. V. C. 10. PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

10. Girls Rostering Exception

Female players (ages 19 & under) may roster either with a youth team or with a girls' team by following the rostering procedures for that classification. Additionally, under the circumstances below a female player may petition to dual roster:

- a. When the female player's intent is to play for her youth team but would also like to participate with a rostered girls' team for tournament play (limited to two (2) tournaments per season prior to December 31). Female players who wish to dual roster under this condition must request permission to roster with the girl's team by notifying the MAHA Vice-President of Girls' in writing and provide a letter of support from the coach of her youth team and the coach of the girl's team prior to the request being considered by the MAHA Girls' Committee. The Committee's written approval must be presented to the District Associate Registrar(s) at the time of rostering on the girl's team. All games played by the female player in the aforementioned circumstances will be included in the total game count as it applies to all Youth classifications.

Revise As Follows:

10. Girls Rostering Exception

Female players (ages 19 & under) may roster either with a youth team or with a girls' team by following the rostering procedures for that classification. Additionally, under the circumstances below a female player may petition to dual roster:

- a. When the female player's intent is to play for her youth team but would also like to participate with a rostered girls' team for tournament play (limited to two (2) tournaments per season prior to December 31). Female players who wish to dual roster under this condition must request permission to roster with the girl's team by notifying the MAHA Vice-President of Girls' in writing and provide a letter of support from the coach of her youth team and the coach of the girl's team prior to the request being considered by the MAHA Girls' Committee. The Committee's written approval must be presented to the District Associate Registrar(s) at the time of rostering on the girl's team. **All games played by the female player in the aforementioned circumstances will be included in the total game count as it applies to all Youth classifications.**

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: error that was not removed in the last rule update; there is no longer a player maximum game count

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Jean Laxton**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L09

SUBJECT: **MAHA State Championships**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Misc** PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

Mutiple locations

State Play-Offs

Revise As Follows:

Change to MAHA State Championships

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align language to the MAHA State Championships Guidebook

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

District Director: **J Barone**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L10

SUBJECT: **SPOC to Youth Committee**

MAHA

USA

CHANGE

NEW RULE

RULE NO. **multiple**

PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

IV. A. 8. c. and d. reads State Playoff Committee

And any other section missed by omission

Revise As Follows:

Change State Playoff Committee to Youth Committee

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align rules with the aproved bylaws in Jan forming the Youth Committee

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **J Barone**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action:

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L11

SUBJECT: Leaving the ice

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **XI**..... PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

3. Any team that leaves the ice during the game in dispute of a registered referee’s decision shall forfeit the game by a 1-0 score (regardless of the score at the time). The coach and/or manager of the team leaving the ice, shall be assessed a match penalty and be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than one year.

Revise As Follows:

3. Any team that leaves the ice during the game in dispute of a registered referee’s decision shall forfeit the game by a 0-1 score (regardless of the score at the time). **The coach and/or manager of the team leaving the ice, The responsible team official for** the team leaving the ice shall be assessed a Match penalty and be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than one year.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: clarify the intent of the rule

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

District Director: **Dan Pozdol**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L12

SUBJECT: **VIII. Game Requirements**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. _____ PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

VIII. Game Requirements

1. All USA Hockey Rules and Regulations apply to all games and practices.
2. Definition of a game:

The following conditions shall constitute a valid game:

- a. When two registered teams occupy the same ice surface for the purpose of competitive play.
- b. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods of ten (10) minutes stopped time or fifteen (15) minutes running time, except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. The game must be officiated by registered referees and with a completed and signed score sheet.
- c. Once the teams commence play, this session counts toward the maximum game count for both teams regardless of the minutes played. (Completion of a game stopped due to a curfew only counts as one game in total.)

Revise As Follows:

REPLACE 2 WITH

2. Definition of a game:

- a. For the purposes of this rule, the definition of what constitutes a "game" shall include the definition of that term as found in Section VIII-A of the "USA Hockey Rules & Regulations", and shall also mean the following, whichever is more expansive: a contest between two separate, rostered, teams that uses one or more referees, is played under the applicable "USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey", and a time clock is used regardless of the length of the periods.
- b. The game must be officiated by USA Hockey registered referees and with a completed and signed score sheet.
- c. Once the teams commence play, this session counts as a game played regardless of the minutes played. Completion of a game stopped only counts as one game in total.

In 4 delete:

~~This session does not count toward the maximum game count for the teams involved.~~

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change:

update definition of a game using USA Hockey language

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director

District Director: **D Pozdol**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting

Rules Committee Action:

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025-26-L13

SUBJECT: **Player Releases**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **II. T.** PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

T. Player releases, unless requested by the player, cannot be made later than November 30 of the current playing season.

Revise As Follows:

T. Player releases, unless requested by the player, cannot be made later than November 30 of the current playing season. **Tier I National bound teams will follow the rules in the "USA Hockey Annual Guide", Section III, "Team Membership and Registration."**

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align with the USAH Annual Guide

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

District Director: **J Barone**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L14

SUBJECT: **Amendments**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Bylaw 11.B.** PAGE NO. **24**

Current Rule Reads:

B. Amendments (not new proposals) may be made to said proposals by MAHA Congress Representatives at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting by a majority vote or by a threefourths vote at the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress.

Revise As Follows:

B. Amendments (not new proposals) may be made to said proposals by MAHA Congress Representatives at the MAHA Annual Summer Meeting by a majority vote or by a threefourths vote at the Winter Meeting of the MAHA Congress. **Such amendments are not restricted to the scope of notice so long as the amendment is related to the original proposal.**

Effective Date of Rule:

Reason For Change:

Robert’s Rules of Order states, “If the bylaws require previous notice for their amendment (as they should)...no amendment to a bylaw amendment is in order that increases the modification of the article or provision to be amended.” RONR (12th ed.) 57:11. This is a practice MAHA has not followed and this modification from Robert’s Rules of Order should be in our governing documents to indicate such amendments beyond scope of notice are allowed.

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Dan Pozdol, Executive Vice President**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director:

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L15

SUBJECT: **Supplemental Discipline**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Bylaw 6; B. 1.** PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

Revise As Follows:

y. Administrative Review Committee

- (1) The Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President and is known as the Supplemental Discipline Coordinator.
- (2) Members shall be appointed by the President.
- (3) Shall be responsible for reviewing administrative action appeals.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align Bylaws with the new Supplemental Discipline Policy

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Supplemental Discipline Committee**

- 1. Submit to District Director
- 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
- 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
- 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

SUBJECT: Duties of Vice-President of Discipline

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. Bylaw 5 Government PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

C. 8.

Vice-President of Discipline

- a. Shall be the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.
- b. Shall appoint and manage the MAHA Safe Sport Coordinator(s) with approval of the MAHA Board of Directors.
- c. Shall appoint and manage the MAHA Match Penalty Coordinator(s) with approval of the MAHA Board of Directors.

Revise As Follows:

C. 8.

Vice-President of Discipline

- a. Shall be the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.
- b. Shall appoint and manage the MAHA Safe Sport Coordinator(s) with approval of the MAHA Board of Directors.
- c. Shall appoint and manage the MAHA Match Penalty Coordinator(s) with approval of the MAHA Board of Directors.
- d. **Shall manage the Supplemental Discipline Coordinator with the approval of the MAHA Board of Directors.**

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align bylaws with the new Supplemental Discipline Committee

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

Submitted by: **Supplemental Discipline Committee**

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: _____

MAHA Directors Action: _____

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L17

SUBJECT: Resignation, Removal, and Vacancy

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. ByLaw 5 Government PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

6. c.

A USA Hockey District Representative to the USA Hockey’s Congress may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the President and the Secretary. In the event a vacancy occurs, the USA Hockey District Representative to Congress-elect for that office will immediately fill the position if such a person exists. If there is no USA Hockey District Representative to USA Hockey’s Congress-elect, the MAHA Board of Directors shall appoint a member in good standing until the next meeting of the MAHA Congress. At that time, either a regularly scheduled election for the position will be held or a special election to fill the remainder of the term of office will be held. In the latter case, the vacancy and a call for nominations will be announced to the MAHA Congress at least 14 days prior to the meeting if possible. The person elected shall take office immediately.

Revise As Follows:

A USA Hockey District Representative to the USA Hockey’s Congress may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the President and the Secretary. In the event a vacancy occurs, the USA Hockey District Representative to Congress-elect for that office will immediately fill the position if such a person exists. If there is no USA Hockey District Representative to USA Hockey’s Congress-elect, the MAHA Board of Directors shall appoint a member in good standing until the next meeting of the MAHA Congress. At that time, either a regularly scheduled election for the position will be held or a special election to fill the remainder of the term of office will be held. In the latter case, the vacancy and a call for nominations will be announced to the MAHA Congress at least **thirty (30)** days prior to the meeting if possible. The person elected shall take office immediately.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: make 6.a. and 6.c. consistent; either make them both 30 or both 14 days

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **R DeSpirt**

1. Submit to District Director
2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **R DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action: _____

MAHA Directors Action: _____

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L18

SUBJECT: Discipline Committee

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. Bylaw 6. B. 1. PAGE NO. _____

Current Rule Reads:

a. Disciplinary Committee

- (1) The Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President of Discipline.
- (2) This Committee shall consist of the Executive Vice-President and the Vice-Presidents of Youth, Adults, and Girls.
- (3) This Committee shall manage disciplinary proceedings and administrative actions in coordination with the District Chairs and review appeals in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10, these Bylaws, and MAHA's Rules and Regulations.
- (4) This Committee shall also manage: (a) the administration of the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook and (b) the administration of the USA Hockey Codes of Conduct for: Administrators, Coaches, Off Ice Game Officials, Parents, Players, and Spectators.
- (5) No decision may be reached unless three (3) reasonably disinterested and impartial members participate. In the event that the listed members are not available, the Chair or his/her designate may appoint one or more members of the MAHA Congress to serve on any hearing panel or appeal. All disciplinary actions will follow USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

Revise As Follows:

Reorder to move (5) to (3)

Add Supplemental Discipline hearings in (4) below

a. Disciplinary Committee

- (1) The Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President of Discipline.
- (2) This Committee shall consist of the Executive Vice-President and the Vice-Presidents of Youth, Adults, and Girls.
- (3) No decision may be reached unless three (3) reasonably disinterested and impartial members participate. **In addition to the listed members above, in the event that the listed members are not available,** the Chair or his/her designate may appoint one or more members of the MAHA Congress to serve on any hearing panel or appeal. All disciplinary actions will follow USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
- (4) This Committee shall manage disciplinary proceedings, **including those referred by the Supplemental Discipline Committee,** and administrative actions in coordination with the District Chairs and review appeals in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10, these Bylaws, and MAHA's Rules and Regulations.
- (5) This Committee shall also manage: (a) the administration of the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook and (b) the administration of the USA Hockey Codes of Conduct for: Administrators, Coaches, Off Ice Game Officials, Parents, Players, and Spectators.

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align Bylaws with the new Supplemental Discipline Committee and provide more options for the hearing Committee selection

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES: Submitted by: **Supplemental Discipline Committee**

1. Submit to District Director District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee

3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting Rules Committee Action: _____

4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

MAHA Directors Action: _____

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

2025/26-L19

SUBJECT: **Supplemental Discipline**

MAHA USA CHANGE NEW RULE

RULE NO. **Bylaw 6; B. 1.** PAGE NO.

Current Rule Reads:

x. Video Review Committee

- (1) The Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President.
- (2) Shall be responsible for reviewing applications as submitted to the MAHA under the MAHA Video Review Policy.

Revise As Follows:

~~x. Video Review Committee~~

- ~~(1) The Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President.~~
- ~~(2) Shall be responsible for reviewing applications as submitted to the MAHA under the MAHA Video Review Policy.~~

x. Supplemental Discipline Review Committee

- (1) The Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President and is known as the Supplemental Discipline Coordinator.**
- (2) Membership shall include the District Referee-In-Chief of the MAHA District where the respondent is registered with USA Hockey and a District Director of the MAHA District where the respondent is registered with USA Hockey.**
- (3) Shall be responsible for reviewing applications as submitted to the MAHA under the MAHA Supplemental Discipline Review Policy.**

Effective Date of Rule: immediately

Reason For Change: align Bylaws with the new Supplemental Discipline Policy

PROCEDURE FOR M.A.H.A. RULES CHANGES:

Submitted by: **Supplemental Discipline Committee**

- 1. Submit to District Director
- 2. District Reviews and Forwards to MAHA Rules Committee
- 3. Directors move to forward or reject at MAHA Summer Meeting
- 4. Proposal Voted On at the MAHA Winter Meeting

District Director: **Bob DeSpirt**

Rules Committee Action:

MAHA Directors Action:

ALL RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY May 15 IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT (via email)