



# Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

To: Association Presidents

From: Joe Barone, VP of Youth and Dan Pozdol, Executive VP

Subject: Substitute Goalies

Date: September 14, 2023

Association Presidents,

The MAHA wanted to clarify the current substitute goalie and new USA Hockey substitute goalie rules going into the 2023 – 24 season.

Effective this season, USA Hockey has changed their rule and will no longer allow substitute goalies to participate in States or Nationals. Given this new rule, the following will be in place effective immediately. For regular season and District playoffs, substitute goalies will be allowed for all Age, Division, and Classifications. For the MAHA State Tournament, only non-national bound teams will be allowed a substitute goalie.

The current MAHA substitute goalie rule pertaining to the circumstances in which a substitute goalie may be used shall be found on page 25 of MAHA's annual guidebook. It states, "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."

For the intent of this rule, 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 event, team has a rostered back-up goalie who is eligible to participate, etc.

Finally, teams requesting a substitute goalie must fill out the proper substitute goalie form and obtain their respective District Chair's signature. Directors and councilmembers are not eligible to approve the substitute goalie. The substitute goalie form can be found on the State Playoff page of the MAHA website (<https://www.maha.org/stateplayoffs>)

Thank you,

Joe Barone  
VP of Youth  
MAHA

Dan Pozdol  
Executive Vice President  
MAHA

