

# MAHA CONSTITUTION

## 2007 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

### ARTICLE ONE: NAME

The Name of the Association shall be the "Michigan Amateur Hockey Association", here-in-after known as the "MAHA."

### ARTICLE TWO: NON-PROFIT

This Association shall have no capital stock and shall not be conducted for pecuniary profit.

### ARTICLE THREE: PURPOSE

The purposes of this Association are:

- A. To develop and encourage sportsmanship between all players for the betterment of their physical and social well-being.
- B. To encourage and improve the standard of ice hockey in the State of Michigan
- C. To affiliate with the USA HOCKEY and other hockey associations.
- D. To conduct ice hockey tournaments and to select representative teams for other tournaments.
- E. To do any and all acts desirable in the furtherance of the foregoing purposes.

### ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership shall be limited to:
  1. Organized ice hockey programs and league officers.
  2. Independent teams not playing in any affiliated league.
  3. Teams playing in MAHA affiliated leagues.
  4. Registered coaches and team officials of teams qualified as members.
  5. USA HOCKEY Directors.
  6. MAHA Officers, Directors and Council Members.
  7. Ice hockey rink representatives.
  8. Former MAHA Officers and Directors.
  9. Sponsors and patrons of the MAHA.
- B. Subject to its affiliation with the USA HOCKEY, the MAHA shall have full and final jurisdiction over its members as well as over all amateur hockey in the State of Michigan.
- C. All member programs, leagues and teams must be members in good standing with the USA HOCKEY and MAHA.
- D. Charter Members  
President - Fred Huber Jr., Detroit  
First Vice-President - Henry D. Schubert, Dearborn  
Second Vice-President - E. L. Abbott, Sault Ste Marie  
Secretary-Treasurer - W. J. Spence, Oak Park  
Director - James G. Ward Jr., Escanaba  
Director - Dr. Thomas Gilson, Ann Arbor  
Director - Raymond Ulbrich, Marquette  
Director - Jack Stoer, Grand Rapids  
Director - Palmer Brevik, Calumet  
Director - Arthur Dahlstedt, Marquette  
Director - Carl Springberg, Cadillac  
Director - Frank Gallagher, Flint  
Director - John Lounsbury, Detroit

### ARTICLE FIVE: OFFICE & PHONE NO.

The location of the principal office of this Association shall be in the State of Michigan and shall be the address of the President of the MAHA. Phone number located at the front of this guide.

### ARTICLE SIX: GOVERNMENT

#### A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows:

1. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
2. DISTRICT DIRECTORS

The number of directors elected shall be as follows:

- District #2: 7 directors
- District #3: 7 directors
- District #4: 7 directors
- District #5: 7 directors
- District #6: 7 directors
- District #7: 4 directors
- District #8: 4 directors

#### 3. DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

- a. Shall interface with their respective Districts at scheduled meetings of each District on a periodic basis.
- b. Shall serve as liaison of their respective Districts at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- c. Shall serve as a member of the Appeals Committee for appeals from within their respective Districts.
- d. Shall serve as members of the MAHA Credentials Committee.
- e. Shall serve as members of the State Playoff Committees.
- f. Shall serve as the committee to administer the Wes Danielson award.

#### 4. GIRL'S / WOMEN'S DIRECTOR

#### 5. PAST OFFICERS

- a. Past Officers shall be defined as:
  - (1) Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers who have served five (5) years,
  - (2) And who have successfully completed their term on the Executive Board in good standing.
- b. Past Officers shall be members of the Board of Directors for a period of three (3) years.
- c. In the event that a past officer misses three consecutive meetings (Winter and Summer) he/she shall no longer be a director.
- d. Past Officers shall vote at all meetings and shall receive the same expense reimbursements as other directors.

#### 6. ACTIVE LIFE MEMBERS

- a. A special honorary designation of Life Membership in the MAHA shall be awarded to no more than ten (10) former or present Officers or Directors who have served amateur hockey in Michigan in an outstanding manner over and beyond the call of duty. Only two (2) such members may be named by vote of the Board of Directors at the Summer Meeting in any year. "If an Active Life Member misses six consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors, he/she is removed from membership on the Board of Directors and the designation of Active Life member is replaced by Honorary Life Member."
- b. Election of Life Member:
  - (1) Nominee must have a minimum of 10 years of service with the MAHA Board of Directors.
  - (2) Reasons of nomination must be submitted in writing to Executive Board, at least 30 days prior to a Summer Meeting.
  - (3) 80% of the entire Executive Board must agree to bring this forward to the Board of Directors at the next Summer Meeting.
  - (4) Presentation will be made to Board of Directors. Paper Ballot will be used for vote, with a requirement of 90% for affirmation.
  - (5) Individual will be honored and presented a plaque at the next Summer Meeting.

#### 7. HONORARY MEMBERS

The USA HOCKEY Directors residing in the state, the USA HOCKEY: Registrar for Michigan, Referee-In-Chief for Michigan, Coaching Education Program Director for Michigan, Risk Manager for Michigan, Initiation Program Director for Michigan; the MAHA: Attorney, High School Representative, Public Relations Coordinator and Junior A and B representatives shall be honorary non-voting members of the Board. In addition, the Board of Directors may appoint additional honorary non-voting Board Members to recognize service to amateur hockey in Michigan.

8. A member of the Board of Directors (Officer, Director, Director-at-Large, Past Officer) shall not hold more than one voting position within MAHA.

## B. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

### 1. District Directors and Council Members

- a. District Directors shall be elected by their constituent Head Coaches to serve two year terms. Terms shall commence at the conclusion of the Summer Meeting.
- b. Each District Council shall appoint an individual to solicit and receive nominations for District Directors. The list of nominees shall be forwarded to the MAHA Secretary by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Ballots will be mailed to the Head Coach of each team and must be returned to the MAHA Secretary by the date indicated on the ballot with both signed and printed name. The Secretary shall record the votes cast and submit the results to the MAHA Executive Board for certification.

For the purpose of this process, the Head Coach is the individual who is so designated on the USA Form 2-T "Team Membership Application" as the Head Coach. Each USA HOCKEY registered Head Coach of a team registered for the current playing season shall be entitled to submit one ballot.

- d. Candidates: (1) must have been a member in good standing of MAHA for a one year period prior to nomination; (2) shall not have been involved in a skating facility as an arena manager or owner during that period; and (3) shall not have been involved as an owner, officer or manager of a for-profit tournament or for-profit league during that period. No person may be a candidate for more than one MAHA Officer or Director position at a time.
- e. In the event the number of nominees for District Directors does not exceed the number of Directors to be elected, the nominees shall become Directors-elect and the election process shall be discontinued.
- f. Depending on the number of Directors allowed, the following will be applicable:
  - (1) Highest vote getters in order of number of votes received will become District Directors to the extent of directorships available in the District.
- g. A District Director may resign at any time by giving notice to the District Chairperson and to the President, and Secretary of the MAHA. Any vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the District Directors. Replacement candidates must be active Council members, or, if not available, any other member of the District in good standing.
- h. Directors shall not be involved in a skating facility as an arena manager or owner while holding office and shall not have been involved as an owner, officer or manager of a for-profit tournament or for-profit league during that period. If this occurs, it shall result in the immediate resignation of the Director.
- i. A nominee may seek election for Director in only one District at a time and therefore appear on only one ballot per election year.

### 2. Directors-at-Large

Three Directors-at-Large shall be elected by their constituent Board Members at the Winter Meeting to serve two year terms commencing at the conclusion of the Summer Meeting. One shall be a resident of and represent Districts two (2) through four (4), one shall be a resident of and represent Districts five (5) and six (6), and one shall be a resident of and represent Districts seven (7) and eight (8). Candidates shall (a) be placed in nomination at the Winter Meeting; (b) must have been a member in good standing of MAHA for at least the three years previous to being nominated; (c) shall not have been involved in a skating facility as an arena manager or owner during that period; and (d) shall not have been involved as an owner, officer or manager of a for-profit tournament or for-profit league during that period. No person may be a candidate for more than one MAHA Officer or Director position at a time.

- a. The procedure used for announcement of candidates, nomination of candidates and for preparation of ballots and nomination of candidates for Director-at-Large positions shall be the same procedure as that used for the election of officers as set forth in this constitution.
- b. All candidates for election to the position of Director-at-Large must be a current or former District Director.
- c. A candidate must receive a majority of the present eligible votes in order to be elected. In the event no one receives a majority of the eligible votes upon the first ballot, the candidate having the least number of votes shall be deleted from the ballot and subsequent ballots shall be taken until one candidate receives the majority of the eligible votes.
- d. A Director-at-Large may resign at any time by giving notice to the President and Secretary of the Association. Any vacancy resulting from resignation or other cause shall be filled by the Directors at the next Summer or Winter Meeting of Directors. The Executive Committee may appoint an interim Director-at-Large to serve until the next Summer or Winter Meeting.
- e. Directors-at-Large shall not be involved in a skating facility as an arena manager or owner while holding office and shall not have been involved as an owner, officer or manager of a for-profit tournament or for-profit league during that period. If this occurs, it shall result in the immediate resignation of the Director-at-Large.

### 3. Girls'/Women's Director

The Girl's / Women's Director shall be elected for a two year term. Persons wishing to run for this position must notify the Secretary of MAHA by February 1st of odd numbered years. The Secretary will prepare a ballot and distribute it to the Head Coach of each properly registered Girl's / Women's team. The person elected will take the position immediately following the MAHA Summer Meeting.

## C. OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Association shall be the President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President for Youth, Vice-President for Adults, Vice-President for Coaching, Vice-President for Officiating, Vice-President for Appeals, Treasurer, Secretary and Immediate Past President. These officers collectively shall be known as the Executive Committee.
2. The term of office for these officers is two years. The President, Vice-President for Officiating, Vice-President for Adults, Vice-President for Appeals, will be elected at the Winter meeting of the Board of Directors in even numbered years and the other officers will be elected at the Winter meeting in odd numbered years. The

Officers-elect will take office at the conclusion of the following Summer meeting.

3. Election

a. The President, all Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected to office by the Board of Directors by a simple majority vote.

- (1) All persons who will be candidates for election as an Officer of the Association shall submit a letter of intent and a resume prepared in the following format to the Secretary of MAHA by November 30 preceding the Winter meeting. Resumes of announced candidates shall be sent to all Directors at least 14 days prior to the Winter meeting.

<b>RESUME OF QUALIFICATIONS AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF (INSERT TITLE)</b>	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
	DATES POSITION(S) HELD
MAHA EXPERIENCE	
DISTRICT # EXPERIENCE	
LOCAL PROGRAM OR ASSOC. EXPERIENCE	
COACHING AND MANAGING EXPERIENCE	
PLAYING EXPERIENCE	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	

- (2) Candidates: (a) to any office of the Executive Committee must be current or former Directors or hold a current appointed USA HOCKEY position for a period of not less than five years; (b) must have been a member in good standing of MAHA for at least the three years previous to being nominated; (c) shall not have been involved in a skating facility as an arena manager or owner during that period; and (d) shall not have been involved as an owner, officer or manager of a for-profit tournament or for-profit league during that period. No person may be a candidate for more than one MAHA Officer or Director position at a time.
- (3) In the event that there are no announced candidates for an office, nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Winter meeting of the Board of Directors.
- (4) A candidate for the position of Officer shall be elected by a vote of the Board of Directors. A candidate must receive a majority of the present eligible votes in order to be elected. In the event no one receives a majority of the eligible votes upon the first ballot, the candidate having the least number of votes shall be deleted from the ballot and subsequent ballots shall be taken until one candidate receives the majority of the eligible votes.
- (5) Officers shall not be involved in a skating facility as an arena manager or owner while holding office and shall not have been involved as an owner, officer or manager of a for-profit tournament or for-profit league during that period. If this occurs, it shall result in the immediate resignation of the Officer.

4. Vacancy

Any Officer may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the President and the Secretary. In the event a vacancy occurs the Officer-elect for that office will immediately fill the position if such a person exists. If there is no officer-elect, the Executive Committee of MAHA will redistribute the Officer's duties until the next meeting of the Board of Directors. 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 Board of

Directors at least 14 days prior to the meeting if possible. The person elected will take office immediately.

D. USA HOCKEY DIRECTORS

The term of office for USA HOCKEY Directors shall be two years. The number of Directors shall be in accordance with the rules as set forth in the USA HOCKEY Annual Guide. At each MAHA Winter meeting, sufficient USA Directors shall be elected to fill all vacancies and expiring terms and take office at the conclusion of the Summer meeting that year. In the event that Michigan qualifies for additional USA Directorships, they shall be elected at the Winter meeting in even numbered years.

1. Election of USA Directors shall utilize the procedures for election of officers stated above.
2. The first (statutory) and second (over 1000 teams) USA Directors will be elected in odd number years. The third and any subsequent Directors will be elected in even number years.

E. Exoneration From Personal Liability

As a non-profit Association regulating amateur hockey in Michigan, the MAHA, its Officers, Directors, and Officials assume no responsibility for injury or damage to players under any circumstances.

F. Meetings

1. Winter

Shall be held during the month of January at a time and place set by the Executive Board.

2. Summer

Shall be held in the month of July at a time and place set by the Executive Board.

3. Rules of Order

Unless otherwise specified herein, 'Robert's Rules of Order' current edition, shall govern in all questions of parliamentary conduct.

**ARTICLE SEVEN: AFFILIATION**

A. The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) is an affiliate of USA Hockey.

B. The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, as an affiliate of USA Hockey, Inc., shall abide by and act in accord with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules and decisions of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey and the decisions of USA HOCKEY, and such documents and decisions shall take precedence over and supersede all similar governing documents and/or decisions of the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association. Further, the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (i) shall assist USA Hockey in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules and decisions of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey, within and upon its members and/or within its jurisdiction and (ii) agrees to be guided by the following core values of USA Hockey:

1. SPORTSMANSHIP

Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

2. RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

3. INTEGRITY

We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

4. PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS

Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

5. ENJOYMENT

It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for the participant.

6. LOYALTY

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

7. TEAMWORK

We value the strengths of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

- C. The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, an Affiliate Association of USA Hockey, Inc., does hereby indemnify and hold harmless USA Hockey and each member thereof, the Executive Committee of USA Hockey and each member thereof, the councils and committees of USA Hockey and each member thereof, and all other elected, appointed, employed or volunteer representatives of USA Hockey from any and all claims, liability, judgements, costs, attorneys' fees, charges and expenses whatsoever, arising from the acts and omissions of the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, except to the extent (i) that USA Hockey or the aforescribed representatives caused such claims, liability, judgements, costs, attorneys' fees, charges or expenses by their own intentional neglect or default or (ii) that such acts or omissions were the direct result of compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules or decisions of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey. Further, the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association understands and acknowledges that USA Hockey and its aforescribed representatives have assumed such assignment, function, office or capacity upon the express understanding, agreement and condition that they be so indemnified and held harmless to the extent described in this constitution.
- D. The officers of the Association shall represent the MAHA at the Summer and Winter meetings of USA HOCKEY.

## **MAHA BY-LAWS**

**2007 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED**

### **BY-LAW 1: MEMBERSHIP**

A. Application:

A team becomes a member in the MAHA upon being accepted and paying the required registration fee which also includes a membership fee for the USA HOCKEY.

### **BY-LAW 2: MEMBERSHIP FEES, DUES & SANCTIONS**

A. Membership Fee

Annual registration fees and/or dues may be established by the Board of Directors for team registration or for membership in the MAHA.

- B. Other assessments necessary for the operation of this Association may, from time to time, be established by the Board of Directors. All such assessments, etc., shall be payable as directed by said Board or the Executive Committee, in the Board's absence. Failure to comply with either Section A or B of this by-law and any rules promulgated hereunder shall result in the immediate suspension of said non-complying league, association, team and /or individual(s) and said suspension shall remain in full force and effect until such time as there is full compliance.

### **BY-LAW 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A. Powers and Duties

The property and affairs of the MAHA shall be managed by the Board of Directors, hereinafter known as the Board. The Board shall have general management and control of the business and affairs of the Association and shall exercise all of the powers that may be exercised or performed by non-profit corporations under the statutes of the State of Michigan, the Articles of Incorporation and these By-Laws.

B. Courtesy Cards

Upon request, all Directors and Officers will be extended Courtesy Cards permitting free admission to all MAHA sanctioned games.

C. Compensation

Board Members may be compensated for verified expenses submitted to the Treasurer up to a maximum amount; the maximum amount shall be approved in advance by the Executive Board.

### **BY-LAW 4: POWERS AND DUTIES of the OFFICERS of the ASSOCIATION**

A. President

1. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.
2. Shall have the power to call meetings of the Executive Committee and to call special meetings of the Board of Directors.
3. May attend and represent MAHA at other ice hockey meetings.
4. Shall interpret rules and make decisions on questions arising from emergencies not provided for in the Constitution, By-Laws or Rules and Regulations. Any such interpretations shall be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
5. Shall manage the day to day affairs of MAHA.
6. Shall automatically be a candidate for election as USA HOCKEY Director from Michigan.
7. In the absence of the Treasurer, shall have the right to sign or endorse checks payable by or payable to MAHA.
8. Shall be a member of all committees of MAHA.
9. Shall appoint the members of all standing committees or special committees of MAHA.

B. Executive Vice-President

1. In the absence of the President, shall have all the powers and duties of the President.
2. Shall perform special assignments deemed necessary by the President and/or the Executive Committee.
3. Shall coordinate all youth camps.
4. Shall be the Chairperson of the Rules Committee.
5. Shall be MAHA's liaison with USA HOCKEY's risk management.

C. Vice-President for Youth

1. Shall serve as the Chairperson of the State Youth Playoff Committee.
2. Shall be MAHA's liaison with USA HOCKEY's Initiation Program.

D. Vice-President for Adults

1. Shall oversee Adult hockey in Michigan.
2. Shall serve as Chairperson of the State Adult Playoff Committee.

E. Vice-President for Coaching

1. Shall serve as Chairperson of the Coaching Committee.
2. Shall be MAHA's liaison with USA HOCKEY's CEP Program.

F. Vice-President for Referees

1. Shall serve as Chairperson of the Referees Committee.
2. Shall be a member of the Referees Discipline Committee.
3. Shall be MAHA's liaison with USA HOCKEY's Officiating Program.

G. Vice-President for Appeals

1. Shall be Chairperson of Appeals panels.
2. Shall be Chairperson of the Physical and Sexual Abuse Committee.

H. Treasurer

1. Shall receive all funds due to MAHA for deposit in a bank.
  2. Shall pay all rightful obligations of MAHA.
  3. Shall sign or endorse checks payable by or payable to MAHA.
  4. Shall present to the Executive Committee at the beginning of each fiscal year a budget for the upcoming year. This budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Summer meeting.
  5. Shall render a financial account at the end of each fiscal year and at any other time directed by the Executive Committee.
  6. Shall, in conjunction with the MAHA Attorney, arrange for an annual independent certified audit.
- I. Secretary
1. Shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Shall prepare and send these minutes to the Directors.
  2. Shall serve as Chairperson of the Credentials Committee.
  3. Shall run the MAHA elections at the meetings of the Board of Directors.
  4. Shall make arrangements, agendas and coordinate the awards for the meetings of the Board of Directors.
  5. Shall notify the Directors of meetings and other important matters.
  6. Shall be Chairperson of the Guidebook Committee.
- J. Immediate Past President
1. Shall be a member of the Executive Committee
  2. Shall have those duties assigned by the Executive Board.
- K. The Officers shall have such additional powers and perform such additional duties as the board may from time to time prescribe.

#### **BY-LAW 5: COUNCILS, COMMITTEES AND SECTIONS**

- A. District Councils
1. Membership
 

Shall be comprised of the District Directors that have been duly elected from that District along with the other persons appointed as District Council Members by the District Directors. The size of the District Council will be determined by the District Directors, but will consist of at least five members.
  2. Powers and Duties
 

Shall have and exercise general control and authority over the affairs of the District, subject to the authority of the Association, Board and Executive Committee otherwise set forth herein. In addition to these duties, the Council shall act as the District disciplinary action committee pursuant to the provisions set forth in the Rules and Regulations, and shall act as the District Playoff Committee or in conjunction with other District Councils as a District Playoff Committee, except in the event the State Playoff Committee(s) makes a contrary appointment.
  3. District Chairperson
 

The District Council shall choose from among the District Directors a chairperson to serve a one-year term commencing at the conclusion of the next MAHA Summer Meeting. In the event a District has only one District Director, he/she shall automatically become Chairperson of the District Council as well. The District Chairperson shall assist the Executive Committee, Officers and Board in any and all matters concerning his/her home District, exercise general control and authority over administrative affairs of the District, and chair the meetings of the District Council.
- B. Committees
1. Standing

- a. Executive Committee
 

Shall be comprised of the Officers of the MAHA. The USA HOCKEY Registrar for Michigan and the MAHA Attorney shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee; shall possess and exercise all powers and authorities of the Board in the management of the affairs of the MAHA between meetings of the Board and appoint special committees for specific purposes.
- b. Physical and Sexual Abuse Committee
 

This committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President of Appeals with the balance of the committee appointed by the Executive Board.

  - (1) Investigate all complaints of alleged physical and sexual abuse.
  - (2) Administer the screening requirements program as established by the MAHA.
- c. Appeals Committee
 

The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Vice-President of Appeals, as Chairperson, the Director-at-Large of an unaffected District and the Vice-President of Youth, Adults, Coaches or Referees as appropriate. No decision may be reached by this Committee unless three (3) members participate. In the event that the above members are unavailable, the Chairperson may appoint (1) another member of the Executive Committee or (2) a Director-at-Large. The committee shall review appeals from the District Councils in accordance with the procedure set forth in the Rules and Regulations.
- d. Rules Committee
 

Shall be chaired by the Executive Vice-President and shall be responsible for processing proposed amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules & Regulations.
- e. Referees Committee
  - (1) Chairperson shall be Vice-President for Officiating.
  - (2) Membership shall include the USA HOCKEY Referee-In-Chief for Michigan.
  - (3) Shall recommend qualified referees for all State Playoffs.
  - (4) Shall determine compensation rate for officiating State Playoff games with the approval of the State Playoff Committees.
- f. Referees Disciplinary Committee
  - (1) The Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President for Officiating and shall include the USA HOCKEY Referee-In-Chief for Michigan, the Director-at-Large of the affected District and the Referee Supervisor of the affected district.
- g. Coaching Committee
  - (1) The Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President for Coaching.
  - (2) Membership shall include the USA Hockey Coach-in-Chief for Michigan and the Michigan District A.C.E. Coordinator.
- h. Youth Committee
  - (1) Shall be chaired by the Vice-President for Youth; the balance of the committee shall be appointed by the President who shall insure representation from each District.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for all B, BB, A, TIER II and TIER I State Playoffs.
  - (3) Shall award all B, BB, A, TIER II and TIER I State Playoff sites and approve all B, BB, A, TIER II and TIER I State Playoff formats.
  - (4) Shall have the sole authority to determine the eligibility of a B, BB, A, TIER II and TIER I team and the players on that team and to act on requests for exception as brought forth by District Councils.
  - (5) Must approve the referees used for all B, BB, A, TIER II and TIER I State Playoffs.

- i. Adult Committee
  - (1) Shall be chaired by the Vice-President for Adults; the balance of the committee shall be appointed by the President who shall insure representation from each District.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for all aspects of the Adult State Playoffs.
  - (3) Shall be responsible for the administration of the Adult Program.
- j. Girls/Women's Committee
  - (1) Shall be chaired by the Girls'/Women's Director; the balance of the committee shall be appointed by the President who shall insure representation from each District.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for all aspects of the Girls'/Women's State Playoffs.
  - (3) Shall be responsible for the administration of the Girls'/Women's Program.
- k. Credentials Committee
  - (1) Shall be chaired by the Secretary with additional members appointed by the President as deemed appropriate.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for determining those eligible to vote at meetings of the Board and resolving disputes relative to voting.
- l. Guidebook Committee
  - (1) Shall be chaired by the Secretary with additional members appointed by the President as deemed appropriate.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for the preparation, printing, and publication of the Annual Guidebook including the solicitation of advertising.
- m. Awards Committee
  - (1) Committee and chairperson shall be appointed by the President.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for soliciting nominations for and/or selection criteria for MAHA Awards and conducting ballots if necessary.
- n. Redistricting Committee
  - (1) Committee and chairperson shall be appointed by the President. Shall be responsible for reviewing player, team and arena census data and for making recommended changes in District boundaries for approval by the Board of Directors.
- o. S.T.A.R. (Shared Tolerance Appreciation & Respect) Hockey Program Committee
  - (1) Committee and chairperson shall be appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board. The Committee shall be comprised of one District Director or Council Member from each of the seven districts. Additional members may serve on the Committee at the discretion of the President with approval of the Executive Board.
  - (2) Shall be responsible for administration of the parent education program known as the M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. (Shared Tolerance Appreciation & Respect) Hockey Program.
  - (3) Shall be responsible for reviewing all submitted Incident Reports, forwarding to the appropriate District Council(s) for action and maintaining database of Council(s) action(s).
- 2. Special Committees
  - a. Shall be established by the President and/or Executive Committee.
  - b. The Chairpersons and Membership are to be appointed by the President and/or Executive Committee.
  - c. Special committees are to have specific duties, responsibilities and authorities.
- 3. Expenses
 

Committee Members may be reimbursed for verified expenses submitted to the Treasurer up to a maximum

amount. The maximum amount shall be approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

- 4. The committee chairperson appointments of officers specifically provided for in this article may be changed or modified by the Executive Committee.

#### **BY-LAW 6: MEETINGS OF THIS ASSOCIATION & ITS COMMITTEES**

- A. Special Meetings
 

Special Meetings may be called by the President or by one-third of the Board in accordance with the notice requirements set forth herein.
- B. Notice
 

At least three weeks notice shall be given all Board Members at their address of record for all regular meetings. At least ten days notice shall be given of all special meetings.
- C. All meetings shall be conducted in a smoke free environment.

#### **BY-LAW 7: MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. Rules of Order
 

Unless otherwise specified herein: "Roberts Rules of Order", current edition, shall govern in questions of parliamentary conduct. Otherwise specified rules are as follows:

  - 1. During a voting session, persons acknowledged by the presiding officer to address the Board of Directors will be allowed 1.5 minutes, per item, to state their case. Allowed time is not transferable or cumulative.
  - 2. A silent vote or a roll call vote may be called for, but not both on the same issue. Whichever is requested first will be the only method honored, for that particular vote.
  - 3. A Roll Call of all voting members will be taken at the start of any session that requires the Board of Directors to vote. The Roll Call is conducted to establish simple majority, two-thirds votes, and three-quarters votes. Once the roll call is complete, and the minimum number of votes for passage is established, any Director not present at the time of Roll Call will not be allowed to vote during that entire session.
- B. Quorum
 

At least one-third of the Board of Directors shall be present to constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.
- C. Winter/Summer Meetings
 

The schedule and order of business shall be as follows, unless changed at the meeting:

  - 1. Meeting convened, roll call and proof of notice.
  - 2. Minutes of previous meeting.
  - 3. Treasurer's Report.
  - 4. Committee Reports.
  - 5. Report on previous year's activities.
  - 6. Vote on rule change proposals.
  - 7. Old Business.
  - 8. New Business.
  - 9. Installation of new officers.
  - 10. Announcement of site of next Winter/Summer Meeting.
  - 11. Adjourn.

#### **BY-LAW 8: VOTING**

- A. Voting
 

At all Board Meetings, each Board Member, except the President, shall have one vote on any and all matters which come before the Board. In matters which require only a simple majority, the President shall vote only in the event of a tie. In all other matters which require more than a simple majority of those voting, the president shall have a vote. The President shall vote in all elections of Officers.

- B. Written notice of the new Directors filling vacancies must be received by the Secretary thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting in order for the new Director to be eligible to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Any voting dispute shall be resolved by the Credentials Committee.

#### **BY-LAW 9: MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **A. Contractual Authority**

The Board or the Executive Committee may authorize any 'Officers', to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any contract or other instrument in the name of and on behalf of the MAHA, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless authorized to do so by these By-Laws, by the Board or by the Executive Committee, no Officer or agent shall have any power or authority to bind the MAHA by any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or in any amount.

##### **B. Deposits**

All funds of the MAHA not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the MAHA in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board or the Executive Committee may from time to time designate. For the purpose of such deposits, all checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money which are payable to the order of the MAHA, may be endorsed, assigned and delivered by any officer of the MAHA.

##### **C. Bond**

The Board may require any Officer, employee or agent of the MAHA to give such bond for the faithful discharge of his duties to the Association as the Board may determine.

- D. The fiscal year of M.A.H.A. shall end on August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

##### **E. Correspondence**

MAHA Stationary, Envelopes or Postage is to be used for official MAHA correspondence ONLY. The use of MAHA stationary, envelopes or postage for soliciting, or running for office, or for the use of personal correspondence is prohibited. Any violation to this rule will be referred to the Executive Committee for disciplinary action.

#### **BY-LAW 10: INDEMNIFICATION**

The MAHA shall have the power to indemnify any and all persons who serve as Officers or Directors against any and all expenses including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and settlements actually and reasonably incurred by reason of the person being an Officer or Director of the Association. This power to indemnify shall apply only if the Officer or Director acted in good faith and a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the MAHA, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful.

#### **BY-LAW 11: AMENDMENTS**

- A. Proposed changes to these Constitution/By-Laws and/or the Rules and Regulations shall be submitted by members to the Rules Committee Chairperson, and must be postmarked before December 15. 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 (on disk or via e-mail). All such proposals shall be read at the Winter Meeting with a recommendation offered by the Rules Committee. An advisory vote of the Board shall be taken at this time. All Proposals which do not receive support from a majority of the Board Members present at this time shall be rejected.
- B. Amendments (not new proposals) may be made to said proposals by Board Members at the Winter meeting by a simple majority vote, or by a three-fourths vote at the Summer meeting.

- C. Between the Winter and Summer meetings, Board Members shall discuss the merits of the various proposals carried forward in their home Districts.
- D. Adoption shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Board Members present at the Summer meeting.
- E. Any Constitution/By-law or Rule change proposal determined by the Executive Committee 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 Board members present at the Winter meeting.
- F. All proposals postmarked on or after the December 15 deadline must receive approval of three-fourths of the Board members present at the Winter or Summer meeting to be placed on the agenda.
- G. Proposals to change these Constitution/By-Laws and/or the Rules and Regulations may be incorporated in a special committee report. If the committee report includes rule or by-law changes then the Board shall vote separately from the report on the proposed changes and shall pass the rule or by-law change by a two-thirds majority at the Summer meeting.
- H. **Any amendments to these Constitution/By-Laws and/or the Rules and Regulations necessitated by amendments to USA Hockey By-Laws 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.**

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.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 2007 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED

#### I. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- A. A team becomes a member in this Association upon being accepted and paying the required registration fee which also includes a membership fee for the USA HOCKEY.
- B. Membership shall be renewed annually upon receipt of registration fee and acceptance by MAHA and USA HOCKEY.
- C. All teams are required to complete an official USA HOCKEY "Team Membership Application" (USA Form-2T) each year. The form must be sent to the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar accompanied by the appropriate membership fee.
- D. Appropriate Annual Dues are required to be paid by all teams at the time of registration.

#### II. DEFINITIONS

##### A. Definition of an Amateur

For the purposes of USA HOCKEY and MAHA competition, an amateur hockey player is one who is registered with the National Association Governing Amateur Hockey and is not engaged in playing organized professional hockey under contract to a professional club. Any player having completed his/her contractual obligations to a professional club may apply to the USA HOCKEY for reinstatement of his/her amateur status. It is recommended that no team or league in the MAHA award any player any type of prize, award, or equipment (including jackets) which may be valued at more than \$15.00.

##### B. Definition of an Association.

1. To be an Association within MAHA, all Associations must receive approval and recognition from the affected District Council and MAHA Executive Board. An association must meet all the requirements of the MAHA Affiliate Agreement and execute the agreement with MAHA prior to their recognition as an association.
2. On an Annual basis, all Associations must re-submit their By-Laws to their respective District Chairperson by August 1st each year and receive approval by the District Council on any revisions.
3. An Association must allow open registration to all geographic residents within the Association's local boundaries.
4. An Association must have a demographic large enough to support it.

The Association shall have:

- a. An USA Hockey approved Skills Development Program with a minimum of 6 players the first year and a minimum of 15 players by the third year of existence and continue to support its existence to nurture the game of youth hockey.
- b. A house program with a minimum of three drafted B teams. Only Association based B/BB teams are eligible for leagues, invitational tournaments, District and State Playoffs play.
- c. An Association may also form teams in other MAHA age/division Classifications.
- d. The Association must demonstrate to the District Council that the Association has

sufficient ice contracted for each team / program that is age appropriate for its players.

5. All new associations will operate under a three-year probationary period. If prior to the end of the three-year period the association does not meet all the requirements and follow all MAHA rules and regulations their affiliation can be revoked.
- C. Definition of a Club Team or Independent Team.

A Club Team or Independent Team is a team in which its members are selected to participate and have no association affiliation. These teams are limited to participation only in an A, Tier 2 (AA), Tier 1 (AAA), Girls and **JV/High School classifications** and must conform to the rules for their respective division / classification.

1. Receive approval and recognition from the affected District Council and MAHA Executive Board. Each Team must meet all the requirements of the MAHA Affiliate Agreement and execute the agreement with MAHA prior to their recognition as a Club Team or Independent Team.
  2. On an Annual basis, all Club or Independent Teams must re-submit their By-Laws to their respective District Council(s) by August 1st each year and receive approval by the District Council on any revisions.
  3. Have sufficient ice contracted and demonstrate that ice times are age appropriate for its players.
  4. Be in compliance with all MAHA rules to be eligible for District and State playoffs.
  5. All new Independents will operate under a three-year probationary period. If prior to the end of the three-year period the team does not meet all the requirements and follow all MAHA rules and regulations their affiliation can be revoked.-
- D. An Association, Club Team, or Independent Team designated as an Affiliate Organization has the authority to conduct ice programs within the Affiliate Organization's area of jurisdiction. Each Affiliate Organization shall conduct its affairs in a manner consistent with the bylaws, rules and regulations of USA Hockey and MAHA. Each Affiliate Organization shall maintain with MAHA an Affiliate Agreement whose form may be modified and implemented by the Executive Committee with subsequent final approval by the MAHA Board of Directors. The Affiliate Agreement shall be published in the MAHA Annual Guide.

*Notes: See Affiliate Agreement form after the Rules section in this guide.*

*For existing Affiliates, the first submission shall be submitted to the appropriate District Council Chairperson by August 1, 2007.*

*The first submission for a new Affiliate Organization shall be when they submit their bylaws and rules and regulations for approval by the appropriate District Council and the MAHA Executive Committee.*

#### III. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS: DEFINITIONS AND RULES

- A. Teams in the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association shall be classified as follows:
1. Adult Non-Checking 40 & Over (Drafted House)  
Restricted to U.S. residents only. Unrestricted as to citizenship, and unlimited so as to include amateurs and/or reinstated professionals. Limited as to: Exclude any player who plays that current season as a professional player. All players shall be 40 years of age or older by December 31 of the playing season; Exception: Goalkeepers (2) may be 35 years of age or older by December 31 of the playing season.
  2. Adult Non-Checking 35 & Over (Elite)  
Restricted to U.S. residents only. Unrestricted as to citizenship, and unlimited so as to include amateurs and/or reinstated professionals. Limited as to: Exclude any player who plays that current season as a professional player. All players shall be 35 years of age or older by December 31 of the playing season;

Exception: Goalkeepers (2) may be 30 years of age or older by December 31 of the playing season.

3. **Adult Non-Checking 30 & Over (Elite & Drafted House)**  
Restricted to U.S. residents only. Unrestricted as to citizenship, and unlimited so as to include amateurs and/or reinstated professionals. Limited as to exclude any player who plays that current season as a professional player. All players shall be 30 years of age or older by December 31 of the playing season; Exception: Goalkeepers (2) may be 25 years of age or older by December 31 of the playing season.
4. **Adult Non-Checking**  
Restricted to U.S. residents only. Unrestricted as to citizenship, and unlimited so as to include amateurs and/or reinstated professionals. Limited as to exclude any player who plays that current season as a professional or on a NCAA (Division I, II or III), or Junior College, or College Club team. Players shall be (18) years of age or older.
5. **Adult Elite**  
Restricted to U.S. residents only. Unrestricted as to citizenship, but limited to no more than nine (9) non-U.S. citizens. Limited to amateurs and/or reinstated professionals who have not played a professional game after December 31 of that current season. Players shall be 18 years of age or older.
6. **Adult U.S.**  
Restricted to U.S. citizens only, either U.S. born or naturalized with final papers. Limited as to exclude any player who plays that current season as a professional or on a NCAA (Division I, II or III), Junior College, or College Club team. Players shall be (18) years of age or older.

7. **Women - Any age**  
Restricted to legal U.S. residents. Unrestricted to citizenship. Limited to amateurs. A person who is a citizen of another country shall be considered eligible if she is a full time resident of Michigan and: holds an Alien Registration Receipt Card (#I-151 or #I-551) or is a foreign exchange student from outside of the United States and holding an I-94 Card. Foreign exchange students must be a full time student, included within a recognized foreign exchange program before she came to the United States and is enrolled as a full time student in a regular course of instruction for her age group, as determined by the educational institution that she attends, on condition that the player shall request a transfer to a USA Hockey member team. Foreign players, who are legal residents of the United States, according to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, also are eligible. Proper I-94 cards and transfers must be provided.

- a. **Release**  
A release from the player's home country team/association authorizing the player to compete for the USA Hockey member team; and,
- b. **IIHF/Canadian Transfer**  
A Canadian transfer form must be completed or all non-citizen female players age 18 and over.

8. **Youth**
  - a. All youth classifications are restricted to U.S. citizens, registered aliens, foreign exchange students, and are limited to amateurs. A person who is a citizen of another country shall be considered eligible if he/she is a full time resident of Michigan and: holds an Alien Registration Receipt Card (#I-151 or #I-551) or is a foreign exchange student from outside of the United States and is holding an I-94 Card. Foreign exchange students must be a full time student, included within a recognized foreign student exchange program before he/she came to the United States and is enrolled as a full time student in a regular course of instruction for his/her age

group, as determined by the educational institution that he/she attends, on condition that the player shall request a transfer to a USA Hockey member team. Foreign players, who are legal residents of the United States, according to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, also are eligible. Proper I-94 cards and transfers must be provided. Any team with a Youth player on its roster who is a non-U.S. citizen should make immediate contact with the respective District Registrar to review his/her credentials and determine the player's eligibility.

Girls' National Championship bound teams are restricted to only two players that are non-U.S. citizens temporarily residing in the U.S. under any combination of the following immigration visa categories: F. Academic Students; J. U.S. Information and Exchange Act visitors; P. Athletes and Entertainers (excluding their spouses and children under visa category P-4); and Q. International Cultural Exchange Program participants. This restriction does not apply to non-U.S. citizens temporarily residing in the U.S. under category P-4, referenced above, or other visa categories not referenced above, excluding category B. Temporary Visitor.

- (1) **Release**  
A release from the player's home country team/association authorizing the player to compete for the USA Hockey member team; and,
  - (2) **IIHF/Canadian Transfer**  
A Youth Written Transfer form must be completed for all non-citizen players (male and female) less than 18 years of age.
- b. The classification of a player shall be determined by:
- (1) Youth classifications: Age at midnight on December 31.
  - (2) Girls classifications: age at midnight on December 31.

For 2007-2008 Regular Season:		
Classification	Date of Birth	
Adult-eighteen (18) or older at date of registration & play		
Junior-twenty (20) or under as of December 31 2007		
Youth-eighteen (18 or under)	1989 & 1990	Midget 17-18
Youth-sixteen (16 or under)	1991 & 1992	Midget 15-16
Youth-fourteen (14 or under)	1993	Bantam
Youth-thirteen (13 or under)	1994	Bantam
Youth-twelve (12 or under)	1995	Pee Wee
Youth-eleven (11 or under)	1996	Pee Wee
Youth-ten (10 or under)	1997	Squirt
Youth-nine (9 or under)	1998	Squirt
Youth-eight (8 or under)	1999	Mite
Youth-six (6 or under)	2001 & later	MiniMite
USA Hockey Initiation Program (any age)		

Women's – Any Age (18 and older for National bound teams)
Girls - nineteen (19) or under (born during or after 1988)
Girls - sixteen (16) or under (born during or after 1991)
Girls – fourteen (14) or under (born during or after 1993)
Girls - twelve (12) or under (born during or after 1995)
Girls - ten (10) or under (born during or after 1997)
Girls – eight (8) or under (born during or after 1999)

- B. Any team violating any of the above mentioned rules and regulations may be declared ineligible to play in the District or State Playoffs and may be subject to suspension from further league competition.

#### IV. DIVISION CLASSIFICATIONS: DEFINITIONS AND RULES

- A. **Adult Non-Checking Tier I Classification**  
Any independent team, or any team which plays in a Tier I league.
- B. **Adult Non-Checking Tier II Classification**

Any independent team, or any team which plays in a Tier II league. Teams which play more than 30% of their games by February 1 against Tier I teams will be reclassified to Tier I.

C. Adult Non-Checking Tier III Classification

Any independent team, or any team which plays in a Tier III league. Teams which play more than 30% of their games by February 1 against Tier II teams will be reclassified to Tier II.

D. Women's A

1. Any independent team or any team which plays in a declared Women's A league.
2. A team having the majority of its players (rated A) will be classified Women's A.
3. This category is for elite teams and players.
4. National tournament bound team players must be 18 years of age or older. Exception may be granted for goalkeepers only with permission of the USA Hockey Girl's/Womens Section.

E. Women's B

1. Any independent team or any team which plays in a declared Women's B league.
2. A team having the majority of its players (rated B) will be classified Women B.
3. This category is for established teams and skilled players.
4. National tournament bound team players must be 18 years of age or older. Exception may be granted for goalkeepers only with permission of the USA Hockey Girl's/Womens Section.

F. Women's C

1. Any independent team or any team which plays in a declared Women's C league.
2. A team having the majority of its players (rated C) will be classified Women C.
3. This category is for recreational players and teams. In this category players may not be current or past Olympic or National Team players. College Division I, II, III players may play in this classification 15 years after the last year of college participation. Under special circumstances players may petition the Girls'/Women's Section Representative for waiver committee review to play in this classification in accordance with registration guidelines at any time.
4. National tournament bound team players must be 18 years of age or older. Exception may be granted for goalkeepers only with permission of the USA Hockey Girl's/Womens Section.

G. Girls nineteen (19) or under

Any independent team or any team which plays in a Girls nineteen (19) or under league.

H. Girls fifteen (16) or under

Any independent team or any team which plays in a Girls fifteen (15) or under league.

I. Girl's fourteen (14) or under

Any independent team or any team which plays in a Girls fourteen (14) or under league.

J. Girls twelve (12) or under

Any independent team or any team which plays in a Girls twelve (12) or under league.

K. Girls ten (10) or under

Any independent team or any team which plays in a Girls ten (10) or under league.

L. Girls eight (8) or under

Any independent team or any team which plays in a Girls eight (8) or under league.

M. All youth teams (except Girl's) will be assigned a Divisional Classification as listed below and in paragraph N.

1. Tier I (AAA) Youth (except 8 & under and younger classifications)

- a. Any team which plays in a declared Tier I league.
- b. Independent teams who play more than 30% of their games by February 1st against Tier I teams will be considered Tier I.
- c. All Tier I teams must be registered in the District in which they play the majority of their home league games in order to qualify for State Playoffs.
- d. All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of seventy five (75) games per season. Game limits do not include National Tournaments.
- e. To be eligible for State Playoffs, a team, and a majority of its players, must be registered for the entire Winter Season in the division classification in which they will be entering the state playoffs.

2. Tier II (AA) (Note: in the 16 or under classification, Tier II is "A") Youth (except 8 & under and younger classifications)

- a. Any team which plays in a declared Tier II league and any independent team registered as a Tier II team.
- b. Has no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered. **In the Midget classification teams will be allowed six (6) players who reside outside the district in which the team is registered.**
- c. All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of seventy five (75) games per season. Game limits do not include National Tournaments.

3. A Youth (except 8 & under and younger classifications)

- a. Any team which plays in a declared A league and any independent team registered as an A team.
- b. If no A league is available, teams may apply to the District Council and State Playoff Committee for authorization to participate in a Tier II league without losing their A status for State Playoffs.
- c. Has no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered. **In the Midget classification teams will be allowed six (6) players who reside outside the district in which the team is registered.**
- d. A 14 and under, 12 and under and a 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.
- e. All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of seventy-five (75) games per season. Game limits do not include National Tournaments.

4. BB Youth (except 8 & under and younger classifications)

- a. Restricted to Youth-seventeen (17/18) or under classification.
- b. Any team playing in a declared BB league.
- c. To automatically be granted this classification, a minimum of three (3) teams must be fielded in the age classification. Teams not meeting this criteria may apply to their District Council for permission to be classified BB. The District Council will investigate their request and make a recommendation to the State Playoff Committee for a final ruling.
- d. Has no more than six (6) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered.
- e. Is a team with players chosen on a draft basis. To qualify for District and State Playoffs, teams in the BB Classification must adhere to the following draft system.

- (1) Association draft rules must be submitted to the District Council Chairperson by August 15th of the current season. These rules must detail how BB teams are to be formed within the Association. The District Council shall determine if association draft rules conform to the requirements contained herein.
  - (2) Each team may protect a maximum of one (1) player prior to the start of the player draft.
  - (3) 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.
  - (4) The league must continue drafting until all available players are drafted to teams.
  - (5) Associations with single entry 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.
  - (6) 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 and players in this classification are restricted to a maximum of 40 games before February 1st of the current season, not including District playoffs.
- g. Any Association single entry team with a head coach, assistant coach or manager that formerly coached or managed in another Association or Club shall not have a team with more than 50% of its players who played on a team coached or managed by one or more of those individuals during the preceding regular or post season.
5. B Youth (except 8 & under and younger classifications)
- a. Any team playing in a declared B league.
  - b. If no B league is available, teams may apply to the District Council and State Playoff Committee for authorization to participate in a BB league without losing their B status for State Playoffs.
  - c. To automatically be granted this classification, a minimum of three (3) teams must be fielded in the age classification. Teams not meeting this criteria may apply to their District Council for permission to be classified B. The District Council will investigate their request and make a recommendation to the State Playoff Committee for a final ruling.
  - d. Has no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered; except for the Midget 15/16 classification, which may have no more than six (6) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered.
  - e. In the Midget 15/16 classification, no players from the Midget 17/18 classification are allowed.
  - f. Teams shall have no more second year players (players in their last year of eligibility in an age classification) than are listed on the team make-up formula below: (does not apply to Midget 15/16 classification)

# of Players:	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Max. 2nd Year :	13	12	11	10	10	9	9	8	8	7	6

- g. Teams that do not qualify for District Playoffs, due to an unavoidable lack of first or second year players being available, may apply to their District Council and the State Playoff Committee for exception.
- h. Is a team with players chosen on a draft basis. To qualify for District and State Playoffs, teams in the B Classification must adhere to the following draft system.
- (1) Association draft rules must be submitted to the District Council Chairperson by August 15th of the current season. These rules must detail how B teams are to be formed within the Association. The District Council shall determine if association draft rules conform to the requirements contained herein.
  - (2) Each team may protect a maximum of one (1) player prior to the start of the player draft.
  - (3) 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.
  - (4) The league must continue drafting until all available players are drafted to teams.
  - (5) Associations with single entry B 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.
  - (6) 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.
- i. All teams and players in the Youth-Sixteen (15/16) or under classification are restricted to a maximum of 40 games before February 1st of the current season, not including District playoffs.
- j. All teams and players in the Youth-fourteen (14); twelve (12); and ten (10) or under classifications are restricted to a maximum of 35 games before February 1st of the current season, not including District playoffs.
- k. Any Association single entry team with a head coach, assistant coach or manager that formerly coached or managed in another Association or Club shall not have a team with more than 50% of its players who played on a team coached or managed by one or more of those individuals during the preceding regular or post season.
6. Youth-eight (8) or under and Youth-six (6) or under classifications
- a. AA Youth-Eight (8) & under only (does not include six (6) and under)
    - (1) No Independent teams may participate in this classification.
    - (2) All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of forty (40) games per season. This may include a maximum of four (4) tournaments, invitational or otherwise, with a maximum of two (2) games per day, including tournaments and league play. There is no exception to the two (2) game maximum per day. Violation of this rule will result in a recommended suspension of one year for the head coach.
  - (3) Has no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered.
  - (4) No youth team which has a majority of youth eight (8) or under players may register or participate as a regular league member of another (higher) classification.
  - (5) Any team violating any of the above mentioned rules and regulations is not permitted to participate in MAHA sanctioned leagues or tournaments.

**b. A Youth 8 & under only (does not include six (6) and under)**

- (1) No Independent teams may participate in this classification.
- (2) If no A league is available, teams may apply to their District Council for written authorization to participate in an AA league without losing their A status.
- (3) All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of forty (40) games per season. This may include a maximum of four (4) tournaments, invitational or otherwise, with a maximum of two (2) games per day, including tournaments and league play. There is no exception to the two (2) game maximum per day. Violation of this rule will result in a recommended suspension of one year for the head coach.
- (4) All Youth-Eight (8) and under teams in this classification shall not have players who are in their last year of eligibility.
- (5) Has no more than three (3) players who reside outside the District in which the team is registered.
- (6) No youth team which has a majority of youth eight (8) or under players may register or participate as a regular league member of another (higher) classification.
- (7) Any team violating any of the above mentioned rules and regulations is not permitted to participate in MAHA sanctioned leagues or tournaments.

**c. B Youth-Eight (8) and under & six (6) and under**

- (1) Association draft rules must be submitted to the District Council Chairperson by August 15th of the current season. These rules must detail how B teams are to be formed within the Association. The District Council shall determine if association draft rules conform to the requirements contained herein.
- (2) Each team may protect a maximum of one (1) player prior to the start of the player draft.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The league must continue drafting until all available players are drafted to teams.
- (5) Associations with single entry B 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Teams shall have no more second year players (players in their last year of eligibility in an age classification) than are listed on the team make-up formula below:

# of Players:	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Max. 2nd Year:	13	12	11	10	10	9	9	8	8	7	6

- (8) No Youth team which has a majority of Youth eight (8) or under players may register or participate as a regular member of another (higher) age classification.
- (9) No Youth team which has a majority of Youth six (6) or under players may register or participate as a regular member of another (higher) age classification.

(10) All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of forty (40) games per season. This may include a maximum of four (4) tournaments, invitational or otherwise, with a maximum of two (2) games per day, including tournaments and league play. There is no exception to the two (2) game maximum per day. Violation of this rule will result in a recommended suspension of one year for the head coach.

(11) Any team violating any of the above mentioned rules and regulations is not permitted to participate in MAHA sanctioned leagues or invitational tournaments.

(12) All Youth-eight (8) or under and six (6) or under teams shall be registered as Mites. (Reference USA HOCKEY classifications.)

(13) Youth-eight (8) or under and six (6) or under teams are not required to sign a roster for purposes of registration. (Reference USA HOCKEY rules.)

**7. C Youth (except 8 & under and younger classifications)**

a. C Youth is considered a recreational classification. All teams playing under this classification will play all games within their own association.

b. Evaluations may not be held to determine whether a player is fit to play at either the B or C level.

c. If a C classification is offered by an association it is up to the parent to decide at signup what level their player will participate at. The parent's decision at sign up is final for the winter season.

d. C teams are not eligible for District or State Playoffs.

e. If more than one team exists at an age level they must be chosen on a draft basis. The C Classification must adhere to the following draft system.

(1) Association draft rules must be submitted to the District Council Chairperson by August 15th of the current season. These rules must detail how C teams are to be formed within the Association. The District Council shall determine if association draft rules conform to the requirements contained herein.

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

(3) 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.

(4) The league must continue drafting until all available players are drafted to teams.

(5) 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.

(6) An effort to make the teams as even as possible.

f. All teams and players in the Youth C division are limited to no more than 20 games per year.

g. If prior to drafting 'B' teams, the 'C' division folds, all 'C' players will be put into the 'B' draft.

8. All girls teams, *except age 8<under* classification are restricted to a maximum of seventy-five (75) games per season. Game limits do not include National Tournaments. All girl's teams in the 8<under classification are restricted to a maximum of forty (40) games per season.

**9. JV / High School Division Classifications**

- a. JV / High School Division 1 – high school and prep school club or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending high school / prep school.
- b. JV / High School Division 2 - high school and prep school club or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending the same high school or prep school or full time students that are eligible to play sanctioned high school varsity sports at that school.
- c. For Purposes of District & State Playoffs, Division 2 will be broken down into three classes. The class a team will be in is determined by following the tiering set forth that current year by MHSAA for that schools Varsity Ice Hockey Team. If a school does not field a varsity Ice Hockey Program and therefore is not rated, that team shall be placed in the appropriate class based on schools of similar size. The class a team is assigned is only for District & State Playoffs and need not apply to league play.
- d. If no JV / High School league is available, teams may apply to the District Council and State Playoff Committee for authorization to participate in a Tier II league without losing their High School status for State Playoffs.
- e. Division 1 teams may not have more than three (3) players who reside outside the MAHA District in which the team is registered. If the player is out of district but is within the school district from which the majority of the team's players come from that player is not considered out of district. Division 2 has no out of district restriction.
- f. Teams may not carry more than 18 players and 2 Goalies on their roster.
- g. All teams and players playing in this classification are restricted to a maximum of seventy-five (75) games per season.

N. All teams needing a ruling or exception for their team eligibility, to make them a MAHA approved team, must submit their request (through their District Council first) to the respective State Playoff committee for disposition.

Game Count Limitations Summary:	
<u>Division</u>	<u>Maximum Games</u>
All Tier I (except Mites)	75 per season*
All Tier II (except Mites)	75 per season*
All "A" (except Mites)	75 per season*
<b>JV / High School</b>	<b>75 per season</b>
18 & under "BB"	40 prior to February 1**
16 & under "B"	40 prior to February 1**
14 & under "B"	35 prior to February 1**
12 & under "B"	35 prior to February 1**
10 & under "B"	35 prior to February 1**
All 8 & under / 6 & under	40 per season***
All Girl's (except 8<under)	75 per season*
Girl's 8 & under	40 per season
* excluding USA HOCKEY National Championship games	
** excluding MAHA District Playoff games	
*** including a maximum of (4) tournaments	

#### V. REGISTRATION: TEAMS AND PLAYERS

A. All teams and players must be registered before the start of league, exhibition or tournament games. The Regular season shall be September 1 to April 30 and the Post Season shall be April 1 through August 31. **Players and coaches may be signed to a roster prior to the start of the season, August 15<sup>th</sup> for the regular season and March 15<sup>th</sup> for the Post Season. However, the roster shall not take effect until the first day of the regular or post**

**season and it receives certification from the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar. Players who are rostered on a team that is still active in the current season, may not sign another team's roster for an upcoming regular season or post season until the team they are on has completed their season.**

- B. An established program which does not register all of its member teams shall be denied the right to play games with Canadian Teams or enter District or State Playoffs.
- C. Each team must complete the Team Membership form (USA 2-T), Team Roster form (USA 1-T), an Individual Membership Registration (IMR) form for all players and coaches, provide a copy of each player's birth certificate (except Adult Divisions), and provide these forms to the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar who will certify the forms. All registration forms may be secured from the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar. If the participant has registered electronically, the IMR form is not required.

In addition, each rostered coach, assistant coach, manager and trainer must provide an application and authorization and release of liability form along with the above paperwork for processing by the abuse prevention committee. If the participant has registered electronically via the internet, this form is not required.

Acceptable proof of age shall consist of a readable copy of a player's government issued birth certificate, or, if birth certificate is not available, copy of a Passport ID page. A U.S. Military record of birth will be acceptable in lieu of a birth certificate for players born of parent(s) in the U.S. Military. An affidavit sworn to before a Notary Public duly authorized to act in the State of Michigan may be used only in those circumstances where a birth certificate or U.S. Military record of birth is not legally available. Non-U.S. citizens must provide proof of legal residency and proof of release and transfer from home country ice hockey federation.

In addition, each parent/legal guardian of a registered player shall sign the M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct Agreement. The executed Agreement shall be retained with all other team registration credentials.

- D. A player is a resident of the District in which he/she resides. In cases of divorced parents, the player may be recognized to play as an "In District" player in either of the Districts in which the parents reside. Once the player chooses, the player will remain as an "In District" player, for that District only, for the balance of the regular season.
- E. Each youth division team may register (20) players, including goaltenders. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed 18. Adult Division classification teams may register (25) players. This does not, however, prevent a team from releasing a player and then signing replacements before the ARTIFICIAL ICE (December 31<sup>st</sup>) or the NATURAL ICE (January 20<sup>th</sup>) deadlines to be eligible for District, State and National Tournaments.
- F. No player who is properly registered in the youth category (Youth eighteen [18] or under) by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current playing season, may be registered after December 31<sup>st</sup> with any Junior A, B, or C team. If the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level.
- G. A registered team in any of the Youth classifications may not play in more than one (1) league or classification.
- H. A player may be registered with only one MAHA/USA HOCKEY team at a time during the regular (winter) season except as noted below.
  - 1. Adult Division (Men's/Women's) Classifications: are allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues.
    - a. All Adult Men's MAHA rules shall be applicable to Women's registered teams. Women's players are

allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues including playing in Adult Men's leagues.

- b. No player shall be registered with more than one Men's Adult US team at any one time, regardless of league classification.
  - c. A player shall not be registered with more than one (1) team that participates in games leading towards a National Championship.
2. Men or Women are allowed to be rostered on more than one team within the same league if they are participating with the additional team(s) for the purposes of tournament play only. Players must designate to the league which team they will participate with for regular season play.
3. Girl's Registration Exception:
- a. Female players (aged 19 and under) may register either with a youth team or with a girl's team following the registration procedures for that classification. Additionally, under the circumstances listed below a female player may petition to dual roster:
    - (1) When the female player's intent is to play for her youth team but would like to participate with a registered girls' team for tournament play – limited to two tournaments per season.
  - b. All games played by the female youth player (youth and girls') will be included in the total game count as it applies to all youth classifications.
  - c. Players who wish to dual roster under the above conditions must notify the Girls'/Women's Director in writing and provide a letter of support from both the boy's team coach and the girls' team coach prior to the request getting consideration by the MAHA Women's Committee. Players must request dual rostering permission before registering with their second team. The dual rostered player must present the District Associate Registrar(s) with the Committee's written approval at the time of her registration.
  - d. A player must also declare in writing to the Girls'/Women's Director at the time of her dual roster request what team she plans to participate with for District, State, Regional and National tournament (youth or girl's). The player may continue to play on both teams throughout the season after she has made her declaration.
  - e) **Teams can not have more than 3 out of state or import players (ex. 1 import + 2 out of State = Max. number allowed). Import player is an out of state player that lives in Michigan with a Michigan Address whose parents have assigned guardianship to a family in Michigan. Import players must produce documentation from the school/district they are attending.**
- I. Any coach of any team not properly registered with the MAHA who allows his/her team to participate in any game(s) are subject to discipline as determined by Section XVII Disciplinary Actions A (4), and/or (5).
- J. **Player releases for indoor artificial ice leagues, unless requested by the player, cannot be made later than November 30 of the current playing season** to be eligible for district, state and national tournaments. **No players can be added to a team's roster after December 31st of the current playing season to be eligible for district, state and national tournaments.** Exceptions to this provision may be made in extraordinary circumstances by a two-thirds majority approval of the Youth Committee. Roster changes for outdoor leagues with natural and artificial ice cannot be made later than January 20th to be eligible for District, State and National tournaments. Teams playing 75% of their league games indoors shall be considered indoor teams.
- K. **A player signed to a certified 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, as certified 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.**

- L. A player registered with a Youth Division classification team is ineligible to simultaneously register or participate with a team in any Adult Division, College Division, Junior Division, Club Team, Prep School or High School Division. Upon joining a team in any of these divisions, the player is automatically dropped from the Youth Division roster. The manager of the Youth Division team must immediately notify the District Registrar of the removal of the player from the roster.
- M. Players or referees playing for non-registered or outlaw teams may not participate in the MAHA in any way to play, coach or referee.
- N. USA HOCKEY High School Classification
  1. The high school classification shall include formal high school/prep school teams or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending high school/prep school.
  2. A youth/girl's team registered as a high school team may roster 30 players, but can dress only 20 players, including goaltender(s), for a game.
  3. A USA HOCKEY registered team may play a high school/prep school varsity hockey team registered with and recognized by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). This allows for play with high school/prep school teams for the high school/prep school winter season only: November 1 to March 1 of the current playing season.

#### VI. REGISTRATION: COACHES, MANAGERS AND A.C.E. DIRECTORS

- A. All teams registered with the MAHA and USA HOCKEY must have a coach and/or manager in good standing with the MAHA and USA HOCKEY. All teams must have a rostered coach, assistant coach and/or manager present at all team functions who is responsible for the conduct of all team personnel.
- B. Coach and managers must be registered at the same time as the players. Teams may register additional team officials at any time. (See paragraph V., Registration: Teams and Players for required paperwork.) Coaches and Managers can only be rostered on one team in an age/division classification at a time; ex. Registration with a Bantam A and Bantam B is acceptable since these are different classifications.
- C. It is recommended that each Youth and Girl's/Women's team have a manager. All Youth and Girl's/Women's National Tournament bound teams are required to have a team manager. A coach who serves as a team manager shall register only as a coach. There shall be no USA Hockey charge for manager registration. Managers are covered under USA Hockey insurance policies. There shall be no member card or other benefits included with a manager registration. A team manager who is not registered as a coach may not participate in on ice activities. The team manager shall be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in Tournaments, District, State and National playoffs. (See paragraph XII, credentials, for the minimum required paperwork.)
- D. By December 31 of the calendar year, all youth/girl's team personnel on the bench in a game must hold Coaching Education Program (CEP) certification ratings as listed below:

REQUIRED LEVEL: ALL COACHES					
DIVISION	CLASS.	INITIATION PROGRAM	ASSOC. LEVEL	INTER. LEVEL	ADV. LEVEL
8 & under	ALL	X			
10 & under	C, B, A, Tier II	X	X		
10 & under	Tier I	X	X	X	
12 & under	C, B, A, Tier II	X	X	X	
12 & under	Tier I	X	X	X	X
14 & under	C, B, A, Tier II	X	X	X	
14 & under	Tier I	X	X	X	X
16 & under	C, B	X	X	X	
16 & under	Tier I & II (A)	X	X	X	X
18 & under	C, BB	X	X	X	
18 & under	Tier I & II	X	X	X	X
High School	USA	X	X	X	
Junior C	USA	X	X	X	
GIRL'S 8 & u.	ALL	X			
GIRL'S 10 & u.	ALL	X	X		
GIRL'S 12 & u.	ALL	X	X	X	
GIRL'S 14 & u.	ALL	X	X	X	
GIRL'S 16 & u.	ALL	X	X	X	
GIRL'S 19 & u.	ALL	X	X	X	

1. A coach/team personnel may take only one CEP clinic per season unless it must be taken to meet the required USA Hockey/MAHA CEP certification level for the youth/girls' age classification of the team on which they are rostered.
2. A coach/team personnel must take the CEP clinics in the correct sequential order, meeting each prerequisite as required by USA Hockey.
3. If the coach/team personnel fails to obtain the appropriate USA Hockey/MAHA CEP certification level by December 31 of the current playing season, they shall be removed from that team roster and thus be unable to participate in any coaching activities with that team for the remainder of the season, unless the coach/team personnel applies for and is granted a Temporary Coaching Card at USA Hockey pursuant to the time lines and procedures established by USA Hockey.
4. All CEP Level 1-3 coaches/team personnel must keep their CEP certification valid and up to date by attending a clinic once every three seasons. A Level 1 or Level 2 coach/team personnel must attend the next level CEP clinic. A Level 3 coach/ team personnel may take the Level 4 clinic. If the Level 3 coach/team personnel does not choose to progress to Level 4, they must repeat the Level 3 Clinic or renew on-line at USAHockey.com or attend a Level 3 Re-certification/Renewal Workshop/Clinic to keep their CEP certification valid. For specific year-to-year renewal information, see the Coaches section of the MAHA web site, [www.maha.org/coaches](http://www.maha.org/coaches).
5. Level 4 and Level 5 coaches/team personnel require no additional recertification / renewal.
6. Evidence of Level (applies to all team personnel on the bench during a game)
  - a. Proof of coaching education level will be evidenced by a USA Hockey C.E.P. card with appropriate dated verification sticker. This card must be carried by all coaches for all USA Hockey games.
  - b. Prior to the start of the game, all coaches (Head and Assistant) present, from each team, are required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet in order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the scoresheet, for that game. In addition, all coaches (Head and Assistant) must include their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP) card number, their CEP level (1-

Initiation, 2-Associate, 3-Intermediate, 4-Advanced, 5-Master), and the year their CEP level was attained. The CEP Card number, level, and year attained shall be printed legibly next to the signature of each coach. The Scorekeeper shall be responsible to make sure both teams have filled in the CEP information and signed the scoresheet prior to the game. Failure of any of the bench personnel to cooperate can lead to a suspension by the appropriate District Council of not longer than 90 days.

- c. A team manager who is not registered as a coach may not participate in on ice activities or be on the bench during games.
- E. Student Coach - A player between the ages of 13 and 17 who is currently properly registered with USA Hockey.
    1. Must attend a training session(s) conducted by the local hockey association's ACE Director.
    2. Must always be under the supervision of a CEP carded/screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, try-outs and in the locker room.
    3. May help out at practices, clinics, try-outs only.
    4. May not participate in scrimmages or games as a Student Coach.
    5. May not act as an assistant or head coach during practices and games.
    6. May be on the bench during games with rostered CEP carded/screened adult(s).
    7. Must wear a helmet with full face shield, gloves and skates while on the ice.
    8. Must wear a helmet with full face shield while on the bench during games.
    9. May only work with players at least one full playing age level down. (eg., a Pee Wee age player may act as a Student Coach at the Squirt or Mite level.)
    10. The organization that is using the Student Coach must provide a form indicating on what team he/she is participating as a Student Coach, and, if applicable, what team he/she is properly registered as a player. (A model form is available on the usahockey.com web site.) This paperwork is to be available for review at all games along with the regular team roster, etc.
    11. Upon reaching the age of 18, the Student Coach must comply with the M.A.H.A. Abuse Prevention Screening Program requirements and meet the C.E.P. coaching level requirements in order to participate as a coach with any team.
    12. No more than (4) registered/rostered team officials, including a Student Coach(s), will be permitted in the vicinity of the players bench during games.
  - F. Coaching Ethics Code.
    1. In order to be eligible to coach or instruct in any USA Hockey activities (practices, clinics, games, tournaments, tryouts, etc.), all coaches (head, assistant, and instructors) must sign the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code Agreement each hockey season. Signed Coaching Ethics Agreements must be submitted with other registration materials at the time a coach is registered as part of a team.
    2. All coaches must abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code. Violations of this code may result in suspension per Rule XVII, A, 15.
  - G. Once a roster is certified, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Managers may only be deleted from the roster by letter of resignation, or suspension by the respective District Council not withstanding appeal reversal. Changes cannot be made from Assistant Coach or Manager to Head Coach or visa-versa, from a certified roster without review by the respective District Council. The District Council Chairperson will notify the Associate Registrar and the State

Playoff Committee Chairperson, in writing, of a District Council's approved change in a coaching staff.

H. Association Coaching Education (A.C.E. Director)

1. The USA Hockey Michigan Coach-in-Chief shall appoint a Michigan ACE Administrator, to serve as the administrative link to USA Hockey and its Coaching Education Program, as required by USA Hockey Bylaw 3N. The Michigan ACE Administrator shall provide guidance and materials to all ACE Directors in Michigan, shall coordinate registration of District Council and Local Association ACE Directors, and shall schedule annual meetings of all ACE Directors to provide updated coaching and coaching education information. He/She shall manage a list of all current ACE Directors in Michigan, which shall be accessible from the Michigan Amateur Hockey web site.
2. Each District Council in Michigan shall appoint a council member or other individual as its District ACE Director, to work with the Michigan ACE Administrator and those in local associations. The District Council shall notify the Michigan ACE Administrator of any changes in this position as they may occur.
3. Each local association must appoint an individual(s) to be their local ACE Director, and shall notify their District Council District ACE Director and the Michigan ACE Administrator of that appointment, within one week of the appointment. The local ACE Director serves at the pleasure of the association, which shall notify the District Council District ACE Director and Michigan ACE Administrator of any changes as they may occur. The "Coaching Director position is considered synonymous with the ACE Director. "Small" Associations (under 100 members total) may appoint a common ACE Director to serve several associations' needs, provided such individual is willing to serve in that capacity. Local ACE Directors shall attend the annual Regional ACE Update meeting and District ACE Director's meetings scheduled in their area, to assist them in conveying current coaching information to their coaching staff, and to assist in monitoring their coaches compliance with coaching education requirements. It is strongly recommended that local ACE Directors positions are an Association voting board member. ACE Directors are recommended to assist at USA Hockey clinics where their program's coaches are in attendance.

## VII REGISTRATION: PARENTS

- A. All teams registered with the MAHA and USA HOCKEY must have each parent/legal guardian of each registered player sign the M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct Agreement. It is also highly recommended that in addition to signing the Agreement, the parent/legal guardian also view the M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. Hockey Program video. This recommendation is especially important regarding parents who are new to the sport of ice hockey.
- B. Executed copies of the M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct Agreement shall be retained with all other team registration credentials.
- C. All Associations and Independent Teams should develop and submit to their District Council a disciplinary action procedure for parents found to be in non-compliance with the Program.
- D. Failure of the parent/legal guardian(s) of any registered player to comply with the M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Parent/Legal Guardian Code of Conduct Agreement shall become the disciplinary responsibility of the District Council 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 M.A.H.A. S.T.A.R. Hockey Program Committee.

## VIII. GAME REQUIREMENTS

- A. All USA HOCKEY Rules and Regulations apply to all games and practices.

B. Definition of a game:

1. 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 two periods of 10 minutes stopped time or 15 minutes running time, officiated by registered referees and with a completed and signed scoresheet.
    - 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.)
  2. 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 scoresheet. Coaches and players for both teams are subject to suspension under rules XVII, A, 4 & 5. This session does count toward the maximum game count for each team.
    - b. This rule is not intended to prohibit controlled practice sessions between 'B' (house) division teams 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.
- C. The authority for monitoring the game count of each team / player shall be vested with the appropriate District Council.
  - D. All games played in the State of Michigan must utilize a score sheet with space for a team officials' signature and referees printed names and signatures. If the head coach is not present, the person on the bench that is responsible for the team for that game (*ie.* assistant coach) must denote themselves as the head coach. If the head coach appears after the start of the game, he/she must sign the score sheet prior to going on the bench and denote that he/she is the head coach.
  - E. No more than four (4) registered team officials in good standing will be permitted in the vicinity of the players bench or will be allowed to coach or manage a team. Any violation of this regulation could result in the forfeiting of the game.
  - F. No Referee or Linesman shall officiate in a division within a tournament, District playoff or State playoff in which their father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband or wife is a coach, manager or player of one of the participating teams without:
    1. Notifying the opposing team of this relationship.
    2. Obtaining agreement to play the game from both teams, in writing, on the scoresheet, prior to the start of the game. (In cases of tournaments or playoffs, this can be done on a blanket basis by all teams, in writing, prior to the start of play.)
  - G. A registered team shall not play a non-registered team or a team under suspension by the MAHA or USA HOCKEY. (Reference paragraph V, P, 3 for allowable play against high school/ prep school varsity teams.)
  - H. An USA HOCKEY registered high school team may play non-registered high school teams.
  - I. Teams must carry approved copies of the Team Membership Application (USA Form - 2T) and the Team Roster Form (USA Form - 1T) and the Individual Membership Registration (IMR) form and the Head Coach's and Assistant Coaches C.E.P. Certification card, or a clear copy of the Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches C.E.P. Certification cards to 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 XVII, **Disciplinary Actions**,

paragraph 21. It is suggested that these forms, cards and/or clear copies be carried to all team functions for insurance purposes.

- J. A registered team in any of the Youth and/or Girl's classifications may not occupy the same ice surface with an Adult Men's team for the purpose of competitive play. Exceptions may be granted via a special event sanction approved by the USA Hockey Risk Manager for Michigan and/or the USA Hockey Registrar for Michigan.

## IX. LEAGUE REQUIREMENTS

- A. The following conditions shall constitute a commitment and obligation of a team to participate as a member team of a league:
  - 1. 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.
  - 2. 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.
  - 3. Provided, that if no answer is given to an application in two calendar weeks, the team may apply elsewhere.
- B. A league consists of four (4) or more teams in the same age and division classifications playing a regular schedule of games.
- C. A league must declare its age and division classifications before accepting entries from teams. Leagues may form checking and/or non-checking divisions in the 18, 16, 14 and 12 and under classifications.
- D. A registered team in any youth classification may not play in more than one league or age classification during the regular season.
- E. This does not, however, prevent a high school team, playing in a recognized high school league, from participating in the MAHA, providing that the team that represents the school in the school league is the same team (including coach and manager) that participates in the MAHA.
- F. No team may play in a Canadian League unless permission is secured in writing from the USA HOCKEY, MAHA, Ontario Hockey Association, and Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.
- G. A Michigan team which has qualified in a Canadian League may apply to its District Council and respective State Playoff Committee for permission to participate in District and State Playoffs.
- H. 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.
- I. The constitution, structure, policy, By-Laws, rules and regulations of Tier I, Tier II, A, BB & B leagues shall incorporate the following principles and policies:
  - 1. All Girls, Tier I Youth, and any other 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 By-Laws with the President by October 1 of each year. Violation of this rule may result in non-sanctioning, suspension or other action toward the league.
  - 2. The President shall review league articles, constitution, By-Laws and rules and if the President does not mail written comments to the league within (30) days of receipt, the articles, constitution, By-Laws 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 Executive Committee for their approval.

- 3. The league's rules and regulations shall provide that:
  - a. 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 divisions must be strictly adhered to, from Mite through Midget, High School and all Girls classifications, as defined in MAHA Guide Section IV., which will not be considered to be within the "more stringent" policy.
  - b. 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.

## X. EXHIBITION GAMES & INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A. Definition of Tournament

Competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition 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.
- B. All independent and invitational tournaments shall be under the supervision and control of the President.
  - 1. All independent and invitational tournaments must declare their age and division classifications before accepting entries from teams.
- C. All invitational tournaments held in Michigan must secure a 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 \$100 sanction fee with the USA Hockey Registrar for Michigan. The tournament sanction number must be displayed in all advertisements and fliers promoting the tournament. At the conclusion of the event, payment of \$30.00 for each team participating in the tournament (less the \$100 sanction fee) is required. The tournament host must complete the form listing the teams that participated in the tournament. Both the list and the payment must be forwarded to the MAHA President 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.
- D. **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 sanction number must be displayed in all advertisements and fliers promoting the tournament. The tournament host must check to ensure all players are registered with USA Hockey. Acceptable proof is copy of the current team roster the player is on or a current participant card showing registration with USA Hockey. A copy of this information must be kept by the tournament director and submitted to 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.**

- E. One of the requirements necessary for MAHA sanction of invitational tournaments is that only USA HOCKEY or CAHA registered teams and IIHF approved teams, be allowed to enter.
- F. Any registered team or registered player participating in a non-sanctioned Tournament, shall be declared ineligible for District or State and National playoffs during the season of such violation. It is the responsibility of the team officials to insure that the tournament has secured a sanction, and to record the sanction number before entering any invitational tournament.
- G. Programs which fail to register all of their member teams are not eligible to receive sanctions for any invitational tournaments.
- H. All Invitational 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 (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.
- I. Any team participating in Canadian Tournaments must complete the Canadian Tournament Application form and submit it to the President together with a 10.00 application fee.
- J. 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.
- K. 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.
- L. 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.
- M. All travel teams not eligible for State Tournament Play (during regular season) will not be approved for Canadian Tournaments or Exhibition Games (Exception Mini Mites and Mites - see Division Classification).

#### **XI. ELIGIBILITY FOR DISTRICT AND STATE PLAYOFFS**

- A. To be eligible to enter MAHA District and/or State playoffs, only teams registered legally in Michigan and conforming to

all USA HOCKEY and MAHA Age Classification, Division Classification and Registration Rules and Regulations are eligible to enter District Playoffs.

- B. All teams are eligible for District Playoffs in the District in which they are legally registered, as defined in paragraph A above. The District Council, being the governing body for the District, shall have and exercise general control and authority over the affairs of the District as defined in M.A.H.A. By-Law #5. The method of selection of eligible teams as candidates for District playoffs shall be determined by the District's Council. All teams will be notified by their District Council, in writing, before September 1, of any changes to the selection process. No notification is required if the selection process remains the same as the previous season, and, shall be considered as an established practice for the current season. A written copy of the selection process shall be kept on file with the District Chairperson.
- C. Any team may apply to the respective State Playoff Committee for the granting or waiver of an exception to the eligibility rules set forth herein. 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 respective State Playoff Committee at its December meeting. No exceptions will be considered by the State Playoff Committee after this date. The decision of the State Playoff Committee is final and cannot be appealed.
- D. Each District Champion or alternate team is eligible to enter the State Playoffs along with a team representing the host city. Should this format fail to establish eight (8) entries the State Playoff Committee shall select from District runners-up a sufficient number of teams to establish eight entries.
- E. No more than two teams from any District may participate in the State Playoffs in any one classification. No more than one team from the same association may participate in the State Playoffs in the same classification. The respective State Playoff Committee reserves the right to make exceptions in extraordinary circumstances.
- F. Adult Division players are allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues, but those players playing on more than one team that is eligible to enter District and/or State Playoffs are eligible to participate in these Playoffs only as follows.
  - 1. In the Adult Elite, Adult US, Adult Non-Checking Tier I, Over 30 and Over 35 divisions:
    - a. Up to (5) players on the roster of a team participating in any of the above playoff classifications may also play on one other team in a different classification in the District and State playoffs. Exception: a player may not participate on both an Adult US and an Adult Elite team in these playoffs.
    - b. The players must be on the roster of both teams that they are playing for in these playoffs and must meet all other eligibility requirements.
  - 2. In the Adult Non-Checking Tier II division, a player can play for only one team in the District and/or State playoffs. Once a player participates in a District or State Playoff game in Adult Non-Checking Tier II he is ineligible to play for any other team in any classification in these playoffs. Once a player participates in a District or State Playoff game in any other Adult Men's division, he is ineligible to play for any Adult Non-Checking Tier II team in these playoffs.
  - 3. Penalty for failure to comply with the above rules is forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player participated.
  - 4. Number of Games for Eligibility: Adult Divisions (Men's)
    - a. Individual players must participate in six (6) USA HOCKEY sanctioned games on or before February 1st with the team for which they will be participating in District and State Playoffs.

- b. In order to qualify for State Playoffs, a team must play at least eight (8) games in its classification on or before February 1st.
  - c. Exceptions to a. or b. may be granted by the respective State Playoff Committee.
5. Adult Men's Division teams that are registered in more than one District are eligible to enter District and/or State Playoffs only from the District in which they play the majority of their regular season games.
- G. Youth and Girl's Divisions teams are eligible to enter the District and/or State playoffs only in the division in which they are registered.
- 1. Number of Games for Eligibility
    - a. Individual players must participate in ten (10) USA HOCKEY sanctioned games before the regularly scheduled first game of District Playoffs with the team for which they will participate in District and State Playoffs. Individual players must participate in ten (10) USA Hockey sanctioned games on or before February 1<sup>st</sup> with the Tier I team for which they will participate in the State Playoffs.
    - b. In order to qualify for State Playoffs, a team must play at least twenty (20) games in its classification on or before February 1st, except for Girl's Classification teams, which must play at least fourteen (14) games in their classification before February 1st.
    - c. Exceptions to a. or b. may be granted by the respective State Playoff Committee.
    - d. All players must be active players on the team they are registered with at the time of the District Playoffs, except in the case of an injured player.
    - e. A player who transfers to a team and who has participated in a combined total number of games in excess of that classification game limit shall be ineligible for District or State Playoffs in that classification.

## **XII. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS**

The District Playoffs shall be under the supervision and control of the respective State Playoff Committee (Youth, Adult, Girls/Women's) who shall be the final authority. The State of Michigan shall consist of Districts #2 through #8.

Each District will conduct Playoffs to determine the District entry into the State Playoffs. (In the event the team representing the host city wins the District Playoff, the District Playoff runner-up shall represent the District.)

- A. Notification of intent to enter
  - 1. Each Association and independent team must notify their District Council in writing of their intent to enter the District Playoffs no later than December 1st.
  - 2. Each team in the Tier I classification must signify their intention of entering the State Playoffs no later than December 1st to the Chairman of the Youth State Playoff Committee.
  - 3. Girls/Women's teams must signify their intention of entering the State Playoffs in writing no later than November 15th to the Girls/Women's Director.
- B. If a team which has committed to enter the District playoffs, fails to participate in those playoffs, the team officials and players shall be suspended for a maximum of one year by the respective State Playoff Committee.
- C. Dates
 

District Playoffs must be completed by the last Sunday in February and notification of winners for each classification sent to the appropriate Vice-President (Youth or Adult).
- D. Tournament Director
  - 1. The District Playoff Director shall be approved by the respective State Playoff committee.
  - 2. The District Playoff Director is in charge of all phases of District Playoffs, exclusive of playing rules.
- E. Credentials Committee

- 1. Each team entering the District Playoffs is required to furnish to the Credentials Committee the following items:
    - a. Team Roster Form (1-T) (certified copy by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar)
    - b. Team Registration Form (2-T) (certified copy by the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar)
    - c. IMR's or Membership Cards or Electronic Registration by the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar
    - d. Copy of government issued birth certificate, or, if birth certificate is not available, copy of a Passport ID page for each rostered player.
    - e. Non-US citizens must provide proof of legal residency and proof of release and transfer from home country ice hockey federation.
    - f. USA HOCKEY Consent To Treat Form for all players, coaches and managers
    - g. A Game Log showing all games played
    - h. Sanctioned game scoresheets to verify compliance with the minimum number of games for eligibility rule for each rostered player
    - i. Coaching Education Program certification cards for all coaches
    - j. Signed Waiver of Liability Release, Assumption of Risk & Indemnifying Agreement for all players, coaches and managers. If the participant has registered electronically via the internet, this form is not required.
    - k. Completed Code of Conduct form for each player and coach.
    - l. Signed STAR forms.
  - 2. Acceptable proof of age shall consist of a readable copy of a player's government issued birth certificate. A U.S. Military record of birth will be acceptable in lieu of a birth certificate for players born of parent(s) in the U.S. Military. An affidavit sworn to before an Officer of the Court may be used only in those circumstances where a birth certificate or U.S. Military record of birth is not available. In the Adult Classifications, a valid Michigan driver's license is sufficient.
- F. 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 non-national bound divisions, 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 national bound divisions, 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 case of injury to the regular goalie. If a team elects this method for a substitute goalie, the team may have only 19 players registered at any time so as not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed.
- G. Playing Rules
- All USA HOCKEY playing rules shall apply.
- H. Time Between Games
- In all District Playoffs held in Michigan, 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.
- I. Uniform Colors
- 1. The Home team shall wear Light/White jerseys. The Visiting team shall wear Dark/Colored jerseys in all games. All disputes will be handled by the District Director.
  - 2. Each team entered in the District Playoffs must be fully uniformed with all players having jerseys of the same color. All players must have a number.
- J. Forfeits

Any team which fails to appear for a scheduled game of the District playoff shall (1) forfeit all of its District Playoff games, (2) shall pay for all expenses, including, but not limited to all referees fees and all ice costs for each forfeited game. The District Council may impose further penalties within its discretion. In the event of exceptional circumstances, the forfeit(s) may be appealed to the State Playoff Committee Chairperson and two other members of the MAHA Board of Directors and the game(s) may be ordered replayed if the appeal is upheld.

K. Protests

Protests on all matters other than playing rules and/or referees judgment must be filed with the District Tournament Director in writing no later than one hour after completion of the game involved. Written protests must contain all the facts and must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$50.00 which will be returned if the protest is upheld. Officials must be notified at the time of protest so that it may be announced to all officials and the public. (The fee will be forfeit if protest is turned down.)

L. Referees

**The Referee-in-Chief of each Michigan District, or his designee, will appoint registered referees in good standing for all Michigan District playoff games. The referee-in-chief of each Michigan District shall submit a list of appointed referees to the district chairperson at least 7-14 days prior to the start of the each tournament, if such a list is requested by the district chairperson.**

**The district shall have the right to question the list of appointed officials by contacting the District Referee-in-Chief. All unsettled disputes will be presented to the USA HOCKEY Michigan Referee-in-Chief and the M.A.H.A. Vice President of Officials for a final decision.**

**The host association/District Council shall pay referees fees for all District playoff games. The referee fees shall be negotiated prior to the playoffs and shall be paid in full within 10 days from the completion of the tournament.**

M. Discipline

- Any player or team official receiving a game(s) suspension during the District Playoffs (game misconduct, etc.) must serve the suspension during the next game(s) of that District Playoff. Suspensions not served to completion during the District Playoffs will be carried over to the State Playoff games. Note: The suspended player/team official must serve game suspension(s) in the next prescheduled game(s) of that team and the next District Playoff game(s) should they not coincide.
- Should the District Council become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s) to be ineligible before, during or after the state playoff tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated. If it is determined that the coach(s) or manager were aware of the ineligible situation, they shall be subject to suspension. (Reference paragraph XVII. Disciplinary Actions.)

N. Authority of MAHA Tournament Directors and Referees

In all District playoffs the qualified and designated referees shall have sole authority of and responsibility for the enforcement and interpretation of the playing rules on the ice except as provided herein. The District shall have authority and responsibility for all off ice rules and regulations enforcement. The District shall have the authority, with the advice of the referee, to terminate play, determine resurfacing as set forth in these rules, and to decide if a game must be replayed and the manner of replay.

**XIII. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STATE PLAYOFFS**

These rules and regulations are in addition to the USA HOCKEY "Rules and Regulations for Regional Playoffs". The State Playoffs

shall be under the supervision and control of the respective State Playoff Committee.

A. Requirements of Host Association

- An established program which fails to register all of its member teams is not eligible to be designated as Host for any State Playoffs.
- A host city that does not abide by all of the Playoff rules will be subject to the loss of hosting State Playoffs for two (2) years.
- The host shall submit to the respective State Playoff Committee its format, schedule and rules no later than the second Monday in December of the current season. (See MAHA Form 11 for format.)
- If a format is not supplied or approved, the respective State Playoff Committee will supply the format and rules.
- State Playoff Locations by Districts: (except Tier I classifications)

DISTRICT	2008	DISTRICT	2009
2		2	14 or under
4	10 or under	4	16 & 18 or under
6	12 or under	6	
8	14 or under	8	
3	16 & 18 or under	3	
5		5	10 or under
7		7	12 or under

- The Youth State Playoff Committee shall determine the location, format and host for all Tier I and JV / High School classification State Playoffs.
- Shall provide competent, mature goal judges, time keeper-scorer, public address announcer, and two (2) mature penalty box attendants for each game.
- Certified athletic trainer, or emergency medical technician (EMT), or paramedic, or medical or osteopathic physician at each game.
- Large up to date standings board.
- Each player introduced before the championship game.
- Printed Tournament Program.
- The following items are optional:
  - National Anthem played before the first game each day.
  - National Anthem played before the Championship Game.
  - Referees introduced before each game.
  - Team name posted at the respective bench area.
  - A welcome sign.
  - Teams separated when leaving the ice after each game.
  - Personnel for crowd control.

B. Dates

- All Tier I and Tier II Pee Wee and above Classification State Playoffs must be completed at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of National Tournaments.

C. Pairings

- Formula for State Playoff Pairings (8 teams):

	National Division	American Division
2008 Districts	1,5,7,8	2,3,4,6
2009 Districts	3,4,5,7	1,2,6,8

- If there are less than (8) teams entered, the respective State Playoff Committee will determine the pairings.

D. Tournament Director

- The State Playoff Director shall be approved by the respective State Playoff committee.
- The State Playoff Director is in charge of all phases of State Playoffs, exclusive of playing rules.

E. Credentials Committee

1. Each team entering the State Playoffs is required to furnish to the Credentials Committee the following items:
  - a. Team Roster Form (1-T) (certified copy by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar)
  - b. Team Registration Form (2-T) (certified copy by the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar)
  - c. IMR's or Membership Cards or Electronic Registration by the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar
  - d. Copy of government issued birth certificate, or, if birth certificate is not available, copy of a Passport ID page for each rostered player.
  - e. Non-US citizens must provide proof of legal residency and proof of release and transfer from home country ice hockey federation.
  - f. USA HOCKEY Consent To Treat Form for all players, coaches and managers
  - g. A Game Log showing all games played
  - h. Sanctioned game scoresheets to verify compliance with the minimum number of games for eligibility rule for each rostered player
  - i. Coaching Education Program certification cards for all coaches
  - j. Signed Waiver of Liability Release, Assumption of Risk & Indemnifying Agreement for all players, coaches and managers. If the participant has registered electronically via the internet, this form is not required.
  - k. Completed Code of Conduct form for each player and coach
  - l. Signed STAR forms.
2. Acceptable proof of age shall consist of a readable copy of a player's government issued birth certificate. A U.S. Military record of birth will be acceptable in lieu of a birth certificate for players born of parent(s) in the U.S. Military. An affidavit sworn to before an Officer of the Court may be used only in those circumstances where a birth certificate or U.S. Military record of birth is not available. In the Adult Classifications, a valid Michigan driver's license is sufficient.

F. Substitute Goalkeeper

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 non-national bound divisions, 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 national bound divisions, 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 case of injury to the regular goalie. If a team elects this method for a substitute goalie, the team may have only 19 players registered at any time so as not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed.

G. Playing Rules

1. All USA HOCKEY Playing Rules shall prevail.

H. Uniform Colors

1. The Home team shall wear Light/White jerseys. The Visiting team shall wear Dark/Colored jerseys in all games. All disputes will be handled by the Tournament Director.
2. Each team entered in the State Playoffs must be fully uniformed with all players having jerseys of the same color. All players must have a number.

I. Time Between Games

In all State Playoffs held in Michigan, 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.

J. Forfeits

1. If a team which has committed to enter the State Playoffs, fails to participate in those playoffs, the team officials and players shall be suspended for a maximum of one year by the respective State Playoff Committee.
2. Any team which fails to appear for a scheduled game of the State Playoff shall (1) forfeit all of its State Playoff games, (2) shall pay for all expenses, including, but not limited to all referees fees and all ice costs for each forfeited game. The State Playoff Committee may impose further penalties within its discretion. In the event of exceptional circumstances, the forfeit(s) may be appealed to the State Playoff Committee Chairperson and two other members of the MAHA Board of Directors and the game(s) may be ordered replayed if the appeal is upheld.

K. Time of Periods

1. Length of periods and time of penalties.

Ad. Elite & Ad. US	3-20 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Ad. Non-Chk Over 35 (Elite)	3-12 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Ad. Non-Chk Over 30/40 (Drafted)	3-15 min. running; 2-5-10
Ad. Non-Chk Tier I & Over 30 (El.)	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Ad. Non-Chk Tier II & III	3-15 min. running; 2-5-10
<b>JV / High School Div. 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>3-17 min. stopped; 2-5-10</b>
Youth-eighteen (18) or under:	
BB division	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Tier I & Tier II divisions	3-17 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Youth-sixteen (16) or under:	
B division	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Tier I & Tier II (A) divisions	3-17 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Youth-fourteen (14) or under:	
B & A divisions	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Tier I & Tier II divisions	3-16 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Youth-twelve (12) or under	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Youth-ten (10) or under	3-12 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Girl's-twelve (12) or under	3-12 min. stopped; 1½-3-6
Girl's-fourteen (14) or under	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Girl's-fifteen (16) or under	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Girl's-nineteen (19) or under	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10
Women's Divisions	3-15 min. stopped; 2-5-10

- a. If, during the last two (2) minutes of running time games, the score differential is or becomes two (2) goals or less, the balance of the period shall be played stopped time.
- b. Playoffs may adjust stop time (20 minute periods) upon approval of the Adult State Playoff Committee.

2. Resurfacing

- a. For all Tier I and Tier II Pee Wee and above and Midget B and BB Youth Classifications the ice shall be resurfaced before the start of each game and at least every two periods.
- b. In all other classifications, the ice will be resurfaced, at a minimum, before each game or every two periods.

3. Overtime - All Divisions except Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget Tier I & Tier II

- a. No overtime is to be played in round-robin games.
- b. In case of a tie game at the end of regular play (where the ice is resurfaced every two [2] periods) teams will be allowed a five (5) minute rest period, teams will not change ends, and the first overtime period shall start. If the game is still tied after the first overtime period, the ice will be resurfaced, teams shall not change ends and the second overtime period shall start. This format shall continue until a winner has been determined.
- c. In case of a tie game at the end of regular play (where the ice is resurfaced before each game and prior to the start of overtime periods), teams shall not change ends and the first overtime period shall start. Teams shall not change ends for the second and third overtime periods. If the game is

still tied after three (3) over time periods, the ice shall be resurfaced, teams shall not change ends and the fourth overtime period shall start. This format shall continue until a winner has been determined.

4. **Overtime – Division 1 & 2 JV / High School Classifications;** Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget Tier I & Tier II Divisions

- a. Preliminary Round: All Games Played to a Winner  
If the game is tied following regulation play, one 5 minute sudden death overtime period shall be played. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a 3 minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice. The teams will not change ends. If the score is tied at the end of the 5 minute sudden death overtime period, there shall be a shoot-out. The winner of the shoot-out will be credited with one additional goal in the final score.

Winner in regulation time - 3 points  
Winner in overtime or shoot-out - 2 points  
Loser in overtime or shoot-out - 1 point  
Loser in regulation - 0 points

If no goal is scored in the overtime period, there will be a shoot-out.

The shoot-out will be conducted as follows:

- (1) A shoot-out is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.
- (2) The referee shall call the two captains to the referee's crease to flip a coin to determine which team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second.
- (3) All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shoot-out.
- (4) Any player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shoot-out procedure is not eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shoot-out procedure(s).
- (5) The shoot-out procedure shall begin with five different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
- (6) The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- (7) The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
- (8) If after the shoot-out, the shoot-out score is still tied, there will be a sudden death shoot-out.

Sudden Death Shoot-Out:

The sudden death shoot-out will be conducted as follows:

- (1) A sudden death shoot-out is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shoot-out.
- (2) Teams will select their shooters to participate in sudden death shoot-out, whether or not they shot in the previous round.
- (3) All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shoot-out.
- (4) Any player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended

or who receives a penalty during a shoot-out procedure is not eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shoot-out procedure(s).

- (5) Players in a sudden death shoot-out shall not be allowed to take another shot until four additional shooters have completed their attempts.
  - (6) The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
  - (7) The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, goalkeepers and goals scored.
- b. Championship Round Games
- (1) The game shall be continued to determine a winner.
  - (2) At the completion of the third period, there shall be a five (5) minute rest period before the start of the first overtime session.
  - (3) All overtimes shall be a ten (10) minutes in length and sudden death. Teams shall not switch ends throughout overtime periods; therefore teams will play in the same end from which they played during the third period until a winner is determined.
  - (4) At the completion of the first overtime, if the teams are still tied, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced. A second overtime period shall begin immediately following the ice resurfacing.
  - (5) Following the second overtime, there shall be a five (5) minute rest period prior to the start of the third overtime session
  - (6) If the teams remain tied at the completion of the third overtime period, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced.
  - (7) Thereafter, the foregoing process in items 1-6 shall be repeated until such time as a winner is determined by the competition.

5. Overtime Periods

<u>Classifications</u>	<u>Length of Periods</u>
Ad. Elite & Ad. US	10 min. stopped
Ad. Non-Chk Over 35 (Elite)	8 min. stopped
Ad. Non-Chk Over 30/40 (Drafted)	8 min. running
Ad. Non-Chk Tier I & Over 30 (El.)	8 min. stopped
Ad. Non-Chk Tier II & III	8 min. running
<b>JV / High School Div. 1&amp;2</b>	<b>10 min. stopped</b>
Youth-eighteen (18) or under*	10 min. stopped
Youth-sixteen (16) or under*	10 min. stopped
Youth-fourteen (14) or under*	10 min. stopped
Youth-twelve (12) or under*	10 min. stopped
Youth-ten (10) or under	6 min. stopped
Girl's-twelve (12) or under	6 min. stopped
Girl's-fourteen (14) or under	10 min. stopped
Girl's-sixteen (16) or under	10 min. stopped
Girl's-nineteen (19) or under	10 min. stopped
Women's Divisions	10 min. stopped

- a. The last two (2) minutes of running time games overtime periods shall be played stopped time.
- b. \* National Bound Boy's Youth divisions play one (5) minute overtime in preliminary round games.

L. Protests

Protests on all matters other than playing rules and/or referees judgment must be filed with the District Tournament Director in writing no later than one hour after completion of the game involved. Written protests must contain all the facts and must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$50.00 which will be returned if the protest is upheld. Officials must be notified at the time of protest so that it may be announced to all officials and the public. (The fee will be forfeit if protest is turned down.)

M. Referees

1. The USA HOCKEY Referee-in-Chief shall appoint a Referee-in-Chief for all State Playoff Games and will pay only their travel and lodging expenses.
2. The MAHA shall pay referee fees for all State Playoffs for which a fee is collected. Referee fees shall be negotiated prior to the playoffs by each State Playoff Committee and MAHA Referee Representative at the Winter Meeting.
3. All Playoff games must be officiated by referees that hold at least a Level-3 classification.

**N. Discipline Committee**

1. The Discipline Committee shall be composed of three (3) people appointed prior to the first game. It shall consist of the Tournament Chairman, a District Director and one other appointed by the Tournament Director. No two members shall come from the same community. The Referee-In-Chief or his designee shall not be eligible to serve on this Committee.
2. The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for deciding any actions (suspensions or otherwise) to be taken against a player or team official receiving a match penalty or game misconduct.
3. The Discipline Committee shall have full power to waive suspensions imposed. No player or team official shall be suspended from participation in the remaining games unless he/she has appeared before the Discipline Committee and been given the opportunity to relate his/her version of the incident. (Note: Per USA HOCKEY rules, the suspension of a player for 5 penalties in a game or the Head Coach for 15 penalties in a game cannot be waived.)
4. Any player or team official receiving a game(s) suspension during the State Playoffs (game misconduct, etc.) which is upheld by the Discipline Committee must serve the suspension during the next game(s) of that State Playoff. Suspensions not served to completion during the State Playoffs will be carried over to the National Tournament.
5. Should the State Playoff Committee Chairperson and his/ her designated committee members become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s) to be ineligible before, during or after the state playoff tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated. If it is determined that the coach(s) or manager were aware of the ineligible situation, they shall be subject to suspension. (Reference paragraph XVII. Disciplinary Actions.)

**O. Trophies**

The MAHA will provide State Champion and Runner-up trophies or medallions for all State Playoffs for which an entry fee is collected.

**P. Authority of MAHA Tournament Directors and Referees**

In all State Playoffs the qualified and designated referees shall have sole authority of and responsibility for the enforcement and interpretation of the playing rules on the ice except as provided herein. The MAHA Director shall have sole authority and responsibility for all off ice rules and regulations enforcement and interpretation. The Tournament Director shall have the sole authority, with the advice of the referee, to terminate play, determine resurfacing as set forth in these rules, and to decide if a game must be replayed and the manner of replay.

**XIV. NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

- A. Only State Champions are eligible to represent Michigan in National Tournaments, unless, the Tournament is held in Michigan in which case the host city may enter a team.
- B. If a State Champion is unable to represent the State in a National Tournament, the runner-up team may be given permission by the respective State Playoff Committee to represent the State.

- C. When there are not sufficient entries to merit the holding of a State Championship in a given classification, a representative or representatives may receive the sanction of the respective State Playoff Committee to represent the State in a National Tournament.
- D. In addition to the MAHA requirements, any Michigan representative to a National Tournament must also conform to the requirements as set forth in the current edition and supplements to the Annual Guide of USA HOCKEY.

**XV. POST SEASON AND SUMMER LEAGUES**

- A. All post-season and summer leagues and conditioning programs must be sanctioned by M.A.H.A. To host a post-season, summer league or conditioning program in which officiated games are played, written application must be made in advance of the event. The sanction fee for Leagues and Conditioning Programs is \$20.00. (For Tournaments see M.A.H.A. rule X). It is a condition of sanction that all players, referees and team officials be registered with USA HOCKEY prior to the start of league play. Applications should be sent to the M.A.H.A. Post- Season Director. (Note: See page 7 of this book for the address.)
- B. All teams in post-season and summer leagues and conditioning programs must complete a USA HOCKEY Team Membership Form, Team Roster Form, and an Individual Membership Registration Form for each player (if not registered prior to post season). The completed USA HOCKEY registration forms along with the USA HOCKEY/MAHA registration fees are to be submitted to the Associate Registrar prior to the start of any games.
- C. A player's obligation to his/her regular season team ends on April 30th of the current season, or when his/her regular season team becomes inactive prior to that date.
- D. A player who is a member of an active regular season team may register and play in post-season, summer leagues and conditioning programs if he/she has the written permission of his/her regular season team coach or manager.
- E. A player's obligation to his/her post-season or summer or conditioning team ends with the completion of the league schedule, or when he/she is released in writing prior to that date.
- F. A player who is on a "Protected Player" list of a paid gate team may play on a post-season, summer conditioning team if he/she has the written permission of his/her paid gate team, such permission is conditional and does not release the player from the normal obligation of the "Protected Player" rules of USA HOCKEY/MAHA
- G. All post-season and summer leagues and conditioning programs must use the current playing rules of USA HOCKEY/MAHA.
- H. Post-season and summer leagues and conditioning programs may have added special rules for their league, provided such rules are not contradictory to, or less stringent than the current USA HOCKEY/MAHA rules.
- I. Post Season league play may not start prior to the week of April 1st.
- J. In all youth divisions, a player may register and play with a maximum of two teams at a time in the post season.
- K. Post Season players must play in the USA HOCKEY age classification they will be in for the next regular Winter hockey season.
- L. All player or coach suspensions shall be served with the team with which the penalty was incurred. 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.

**XVI. REFEREE: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. It is the responsibility of the local USA HOCKEY Referee-In-Chief for Michigan to insure that all referees used have been duly registered.
- B. All score sheets must be signed by the referees who officiated the game and must have their USA number clearly

printed. Failure to clearly print their USA number may result in suspension or other disciplinary action by the Referee Representative to the MAHA.

- C. Suspension up to ten (10) days
- The responsibility shall lie with the local Supervisor of Officials and/or the MAHA. Such action shall only be taken after review of the facts as reported, including the version (in writing or person) of the official(s) involved. Any appeal of the suspension shall be made to the Affiliate Referee-in-Chief or an Affiliate Committee appointed for that purpose, which shall include a referee appointed by the Affiliate Referee-in-Chief. The decision of the Affiliate Referee-in-Chief or Committee shall be final.
- D. The MAHA shall have the authority to cancel assignments up to a maximum of five (5) games and the Affiliate Association Committee shall have the power to cancel assignments for more than five (5) games in cases where an official registered with USA HOCKEY officiates a game(s) between teams that are not registered with USA HOCKEY.
- E. The USA Referee-In-Chief for the MAHA, or his designate, shall schedule referees for the MAHA State Playoffs using the list of approved officials from the MAHA State Tournament Committee.

## XVII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- A. Players, team officials, leagues, or others (except referees)
1. All match penalties must be reported by both the Referees and Coach.
    - a. Referee must report penalty, within 24 hours, following the incident by phone to the District Supervisor of officials where the affected player or team official is registered.
    - b. Referee must also complete the "Official Game Report" form and send this report and a copy of the original Game Score sheet within 48 hours of the incident as follows:
      - (1) Copy-1 Supervisor of District Officials, of affected District (who will forward a copy of the game report and scoresheet to the affected MAHA District Chairperson).
      - (2) Copy-2 Reporting referee's copy.
    - c. Coach must report penalty, within 24 hours following the incident by phone to the District Council Chairperson where the player or team official is registered. The Coach shall also notify the Girls/Women's Director of all matters of suspension which involve female players or the team officials of female teams. The Girls/Women's Director shall be given the opportunity by the District Council to attend the hearing.
    - d. If the District Council Chairperson is unavailable, it shall be reported to another District Council Director in the proper District; (see list of District Directors and list of District Supervisor of Officials, MAHA Annual Guide).
    - e. The reporting referee shall personally attend or be represented at any hearing held concerning the penalty. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.
    - f. Violations of these rules may result in the suspension of the offending player, team official, or referee.
  2. 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.
  3. A player or team official receiving a match penalty is automatically suspended from all amateur hockey activities until a hearing is held by the District Council.
  4. A coach or manager who upon the findings of the District Council knowingly allowed the participation of

an ineligible player or coach in any game shall be subject to a recommended suspension up to one year.

5. A player or coach upon the findings of the District Council, who knowingly participated in a game as an ineligible player or coach, shall be suspended for not less than thirty (30) days.
6. No coach, manager, or other team official, connected with a registered team may directly or indirectly entice, influence or contact a player rostered on a registered 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.
7. 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.
8. All complaints of vandalism or destruction of public or private property by any player or team staff member shall be referred to their home District Council for disposition. If the home District Council finds that such vandalism or destruction was caused, it shall have the power to suspend players for a recommended minimum of one (1) year and staff members of the team for a recommended minimum of five (5) years. The District Council may, as a condition precedent to reinstatement of a player or staff member, require him or her to make reasonable restitution to the damaged property owner.
9. Any compensation provided (except to USA HOCKEY) as the result of a player (Junior C or below), being released or signed becomes the property of the MAHA. Failure to submit this compensation to the MAHA may result in suspension.
10. When a player, coach or manager receives a game suspension(s), he/she shall not be eligible to participate in the next game(s) that were already on the schedule of that team before the incident occurred.
11. When a player is ejected for receiving a second major penalty in a game, he/she shall be suspended for the next two games.
12. The head coach of any team accumulating fifteen (15) or more penalties during the same game, will automatically be suspended for the next game his/her team plays (USA HOCKEY - 404 misconduct penalties). If the head coach is not present at all during the game in which the team accumulates the fifteen (15) or more penalties, the person on the bench responsible for the team (*ie.* who signed the score sheet prior to the start of the game) will be assessed the suspension.
13. A player who receives a game misconduct penalty will be suspended for one game. Upon receipt of a game misconduct, the player must immediately proceed to the locker room and either: a) remain in the locker room for the balance of the game, or b) dress and leave the arena premises.
14. Any player who receives five (5) penalties during the same game shall receive a game misconduct penalty. Suspension to be determined by the subsequent game misconduct rule - #404.
15. The District Councils shall have the power to suspend any member for conduct detrimental to hockey either on or off the ice. Violation of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations, etc. may result in disciplinary action.
16. Abusive or threatening words or action toward any Officer, Director, appointed Officer or Game Official of this Association, opposing Team Official, opposing player or spectator shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct and the District Council shall have the power to suspend such person(s) after conducting a hearing on such matter.

17. The District Councils shall act on all matters of suspension concerning players or team officials registered in that District in the current season, post season or, if between seasons, in the District registered in the previous season. In the Adult Division, hearings on match penalties shall be conducted in the District in which the penalty was called. Upon receipt of notification of an incident involving possible or automatic suspension under these Rules or the USA HOCKEY playing rules for match penalties, a hearing shall be held in accordance with the rules of USA HOCKEY regarding suspensions and appeals. The Presiding Officer shall have the authority to appoint a temporary third member in the event of the unavailability of any member of the District Council. For the purposes of this Paragraph all "amateur hockey activities" shall include coaching, playing, refereeing and minor officiating at games or practices.
  18. In order to preserve as far as possible the integrity of amateur hockey, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before all of the rights of the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of this Association shall have been exhausted, shall be ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any member or individual.
  19. The Executive Committee shall act as the Disciplinary Authority to hear all matters of alleged misconduct or improper actions on the part of any Officer or Director of the MAHA. A finding of misconduct or improper action must be supported by five (5) or more votes of the Disciplinary Authority. The decision of the Disciplinary Authority may be appealed by notifying any non involved District Chairperson in writing. See USA HOCKEY Annual Guide for appeals procedure. The committee hearing an appeal of any decision of the Disciplinary Authority will consist of at least five District Council Chairpersons, or their designated alternate Director, from Districts not involved.
  20. Any team personnel registered with another affiliate team of USA HOCKEY which plays in a Michigan League, receiving a match penalty in a game played in Michigan, is automatically suspended from all amateur hockey activities in Michigan, until a hearing is conducted before the appropriate Michigan District Council.
  21. Any disciplinary circumstance not elsewhere covered in these rules will be assigned to the proper District Council for a hearing by the President or by the Executive Committee. In circumstances where multiple Districts are involved, the Executive Committee may conduct the hearing.
  22. Any suspension imposed as a result of a hearing may be appealed. See USA HOCKEY Annual Guide Book and Official Playing Rules for time guidelines.
  23. **Any suspension imposed as the result of a STAR Violation Hearing may be appealed. Appeals of association or independent team imposed suspensions would be heard by the District Council. Appeals of suspensions imposed by a District Council or Hearing Panel appointed by a District Council would be heard by the State Appeals Committee.**
- B. Referees who referee games of non-registered or outlaw teams without the permission of the MAHA President may not referee games in the MAHA.

#### XVIII. AWARDS

##### A. 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 Board of Directors for outstanding achievement and dedication to amateur hockey. Each year the members of the Board will vote for whom they wish to merit this honor. Mr. Kellogg was selected the first honored member.

##### B. Carl Schwarz Award

At each Summer Meeting, the Carl Schwarz Award is presented to the Immediate Past President.

##### C. Wes Danielson Award

At each Summer meeting the Wes Danielson Award recognizes an individual who, like Wes, overcomes a major handicap or diversity and continues to participate in or make a major contribution to ice hockey.

##### D. Earl G. Piper Award

At each Summer Meeting, the Earl G. Piper Coach of the Year Award recognizes an individual who contributes significantly to the development of youth players.

##### E. Charles Autore Award

At each Summer meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed five consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

##### F. Larry Cain Award

At each Summer meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed ten consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

##### G. Gerald M. Conley Award

At each Summer meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed fifteen consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

##### H. John Vargo Award

At each Summer meeting this award is presented to those persons who have completed twenty consecutive years on the MAHA Board of Directors.

##### I. Lowell McCoy Award

At each Summer Meeting, the Lowell McCoy Referee of the Year Award recognizes a referee who has contributed significantly to the development of young officials and excellence in his/her role as a referee.

J. At each Summer Meeting of the MAHA those persons who have been helpful in the promotion and development of hockey in Michigan shall be presented with a special MAHA award.

K. The Awards Committee will serve as the selection committee for the Summer awards.

L. Hat Trick, Zero and Playmaker awards will be awarded to those who earn them in the regular season, or State Playoff Games and National Tournaments, providing the roster of the team has been registered with the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar. A copy of the game score sheet must be submitted to the USA HOCKEY Associate Registrar. Score sheets will be returned by request. There is a limit of one of each award per player per season.

#### XIX. ABUSE PREVENTION

A. The Abuse Prevention Committee shall consist of nine members and the MAHA legal counsel. The term of office shall be three years. Three members shall be appointed each year by the President. The committee shall promulgate the rules, procedures and programs for the screening of personnel, receive allegations of physical and sexual abuse as defined below and suspend individuals after diligent investigations.

##### B. M.A.H.A. SCREENING POLICY

It is the policy of M.A.H.A. 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 M.A.H.A. before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in M.A.H.A.'s programs. This policy includes coaches, referees, M.A.H.A. personnel, Association personnel, League personnel; any age of majority participant that comes in contact with minors within M.A.H.A.'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 M.A.H.A. if the person has:

1. Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes, controlled substance crimes or misappropriation of funds;
    - a. For purposes of this policy, controlled substances shall include "mood altering substances" as shown below:
      - (1) Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
      - (2) Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
      - (3) Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctor's orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
  2. Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children;
  3. Been subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order for protection;
  4. Had their parental rights terminated;
  5. A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors;
  6. Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors; or
  7. Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in M.A.H.A.
- C. It shall be the obligation of each team that billets players on a continuing basis to secure signatures on the application for screening from the billeting persons and shall submit them to the Associate Registrar.
- D. Definitions
1. Sexual Abuse
    - a. Sexual abuse is when 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).
  2. 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.
- E. Each coach, assistant coach, manager, referee, instructor, minor official and officers of all associations shall execute an application and authorization and release of liability form authorizing the Abuse Prevention Committee to obtain criminal history records from any governmental unit. The executed application shall be delivered to the Associate Registrar at the time the volunteer submits the team roster for registration. The Associate Registrar shall forward the applications to the Chairman of the committee. Any coach, assistant coach, manager, referee, instructor, minor official or officer of an association who shall become engaged after August 1st shall immediately submit an application to the Associate Registrar. No coach, assistant coach, manager, referee, instructor, minor official or officer of an association shall participate in MAHA activities unless he/she has submitted the application to the Associate Registrar, who shall forward the application to the Chairman.
- F. If upon review of the criminal record of an individual by the committee designee, there appears any of the crimes set forth in the abuse prevention policy, or misdemeanor convictions having a sexual nature, the designee shall forward the criminal record to the Chairman of the committee. The Chairman shall forthwith notify the participant in writing, by certified mail, that he/she is disqualified and to immediately cease MAHA participation. The Chairman shall advise the participant that he/she shall have five (5) days in which to request in writing a hearing to discuss the disqualification. Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the Chairman shall appoint three members of the committee to discuss the circumstances of the criminal record with the participant. The three member committee shall notify the Chairman of the results of the hearing. The Chairman shall notify the participant. Only the Chairman and the three member panel shall be made aware of the name of the participant. If the disqualification is sustained, the participant is suspended from all MAHA participation of every nature.
- G. All allegations of sexual abuse shall be in writing and sealed and forwarded to the Chairman. There shall be no disclosure to any other person except the Chairman and his designees. The allegations shall be immediately forwarded to the applicable police department or other appropriate governmental authority and to the MAHA legal counsel. The chairman, upon receipt of the allegations, shall notify the accused in writing that he/she is immediately suspended from MAHA participation of every nature. The **Chairman** shall appoint an investigator who is a member of the committee to investigate the allegations. The investigator shall notify the Chairman if there are sufficient legal grounds to require a hearing. The legal counsel shall appoint three members of the committee to act as a hearing panel. The hearing shall not be held until the appropriate police unit or department of government shall complete its processes, including, but not limited to, arrest, warrant and judicial determinations. If, within a reasonable time, the government unit fails to issue a warrant, the three member panel shall initiate its hearing. Failure to prosecute by the governmental unit shall not prevent the completion of the Abuse Committee processes. If the investigator advises the Chairman that there are not sufficient circumstances to support the necessity of a hearing, the Chairman shall reinstate the participant.
- H. Allegations of physical abuse shall be reported in writing to the Chairman of the committee. The participant shall not be suspended from MAHA activities. The legal counsel shall appoint an investigator who shall determine the circumstances of the allegations. The Chairman shall report the allegations to the appropriate governmental agency. Upon report of the investigator, the **Chairman** shall appoint a three member panel from members of the committee who shall forthwith, after notice to all interested parties, hear the evidence and determine if the participant shall be suspended from MAHA participation. If the investigator determines that there are not sufficient grounds, he shall notify the Chairman, who shall notify the volunteer.
- I. The proceedings shall be conducted with utmost confidentiality for the protection of the accused participant and the alleged victim. If allegations of abuse prove to be entirely unfounded or were submitted for any other reason than the prevention of abuse, the party submitting the allegations shall be suspended from MAHA activities.
- J. It is the policy of M.A.H.A. and USA Hockey that there shall be no hazing of any participant involved in any of their sanctioned programs, training camps, hockey clinics, coaches clinics, referee clinics, District, State and National tournaments or other M.A.H.A./ USA Hockey events by any employee, volunteer, participant or independent contractor.

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 M.A.H.A.

## XX. RISK MANAGEMENT

- A. All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey youth, high school, disabled, girls/women's 19&under and below programs must wear an ice hockey helmet during all on ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars), with the exception of when a team official is tending to an injured player. Any team personnel found in violation of this rule by their District Council shall be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than 30 days.

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## USA HOCKEY COACHING ETHICS CODE

### INTRODUCTION

This Ethics Code is intended to provide standards of ethical conduct that can be applied by USA Hockey and its member organizations. Whether or not a coach has violated the Ethics Code does not by itself determine whether a contract or agreement is enforceable or whether other legal consequences occur. These results are based on legal rather than ethical rules. However, compliance with or violation of the Ethics Code may be admissible as evidence in some legal proceedings, depending on the circumstances.

This Code is intended to provide both the general principles and the decision rules to cover most situations encountered by coaches. It has as its primary goal the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom coaches work. This Code also provides a common set of values. It is the individual responsibility of each coach to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. Coaches should respect and protect human civil rights, and should not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES

#### PRINCIPLE A: Competence

Coaches strive to maintain high standards of excellence in their work. They recognize the boundaries of their particular competencies and the limitations of their expertise. They provide only those services and use only those techniques for which they are qualified by education, training or experience. In those areas in which recognized professional standards do not yet exist, coaches exercise careful judgment and take appropriate precautions to protect the welfare of those with whom they work. They maintain knowledge of relevant coaching educational information related to the services they render, and they recognize the need for ongoing education. Coaches make appropriate use of scientific, professional, technical and administrative resources.

#### PRINCIPLE B: Integrity

Coaches seek to promote integrity in the practice of coaching. Coaches are honest, fair and respectful of others. In describing or reporting their qualifications, services, products, or fees, they do not make statements that are false, misleading or deceptive. Coaches strive to be aware of their own belief systems, values, needs and limitations and the effect of these on their work. To the extent feasible they attempt to clarify, for relevant parties, the roles they are performing and to function appropriately in accordance with those roles. Coaches avoid improper and potentially harmful dual relationships.

#### PRINCIPLE C: Professional Responsibility\*

Coaches uphold professional standards of conduct, clarify their professional roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for their behavior, and adapt their methods to the needs of different athletes. Coaches consult with, refer to, or cooperate with other professionals and institutions to the extent needed to serve the best interest of their athletes, or other recipients of their services. Coaches' moral standards and conduct are personal matters to the same degree as is true for any other person, except when coaches' conduct may compromise their responsibilities or reduce the public's trust in coaching and/or coaches. Coaches are concerned about the ethical compliance of their colleagues' conduct. When appropriate, they consult with their colleagues in order to prevent or avoid unethical conduct.

#### PRINCIPLE D: Respect of Participants and Dignity\*\*

Coaches respect the fundamental rights, dignity and worth of all participants. Coaches are aware of cultural, individual and role differences, including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language and socioeconomic status. Coaches try to eliminate the effect on their work of biases based on those factors, and they do not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

#### PRINCIPLE E: Concern For Others' Welfare

Coaches seek to contribute to the welfare of those with whom they interact. In their actions, coaches consider the welfare and right of their athletes and other participants. When conflicts occur among coaches' obligations or concerns, they attempt to resolve these conflicts and to perform their roles in a responsible fashion that avoids or minimizes harm. Coaches are sensitive to differences in power between themselves and others, and they do not exploit nor mislead other people during or after their relationships.

#### PRINCIPLE F: Responsible Coaching

Coaches are aware of their ethical responsibilities to the community and the society in which they work and live. They apply and make public their knowledge of sport in order to contribute to human welfare. Coaches try to avoid misuse of their work. Coaches comply with the law and encourage the development of law and policies that serve the interest of sport.

\* Professional: of, engaged in, or worthy of high standards

\*\* Participants: all those taking part in hockey

### ETHICAL STANDARDS

#### A. GENERAL STANDARDS

These General Standards are applicable to the activities of all coaches.

##### 1. Applicability of the Ethics Code

While many aspects of personal behavior and private activities seem far removed from official duties of coaching, all coaches should be sensitive to their position as role models for their athletes. Private activities perceived as immoral or illegal can influence the coaching environment, and coaches are encouraged to observe the standards of this Ethics Code consistently.

##### 2. Boundaries of Competence

(a) Coaches provide services only after first undertaking appropriate study, training, supervision, and/or consultation from persons within their respective association.

(b) In those Affiliates or Districts which require coaching education, coaches take reasonable steps to ensure their attendance at appropriate coaching education clinics.

##### 3. Maintaining Expertise

Coaches maintain a reasonable level of awareness of related coaching information and undertake ongoing efforts to maintain competence in the skills they use.

##### 4. Basis For Professional Judgements

Coaches rely on scientifically and professionally derived knowledge when making judgments or when engaging in coaching endeavors.

## 5. Describing The Nature Of Coaching Services

When coaches provide services or information to an individual, a group, or an organization, they use language that is reasonably understandable and appropriate to the recipient of those services and information that is always updated and truthful.

## 6. Respecting Others

Coaches respect the rights of others to hold values, attitudes and opinions that differ from their own.

## 7. Nondiscrimination

Coaches do not engage in discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, socioeconomic status, or any basis prescribed by law.

## 8. Sexual Harassment

(a) Coaches do not engage in sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, and that either:

- (1) is unwelcome, is offensive, or creates a hostile environment, and the coach knows or is told this;
- (2) is sufficiently severe or intense to be abusive to a reasonable person in the context. Sexual harassment can consist of a single intense or severe act or of multiple persistent or pervasive acts.

(b) Coaches will treat sexual harassment complainants and respondents with dignity and respect. Coaches do not participate in denying an athlete the right to participate based on their having made, or their being the subject of, sexual harassment charges.

## 9. Other Harassment

Coaches do not engage in or condone behavior that is harassing or demeaning to persons with whom they interact in their work based on factors such as a person's age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, or socioeconomic status.

## 10. Personal Problems and Conflicts

(a) Coaches recognize that their personal problems and conflicts may interfere with their effectiveness. Accordingly, they refrain from undertaking an activity when they know or should know that their personal problems are likely to lead to harm to athletes or other participants.

(b) In addition, coaches have an obligation to be alert to signs of, and to obtain assistance for, their personal problems at an early stage, in order to prevent significantly impaired performance.

(c) When coaches become aware of personal problems that may interfere with their performing work-related duties adequately, they take appropriate measures, such as obtaining professional consultation or assistance, and determine whether they should limit, suspend, or terminate their work-related duties.

## 11. Avoiding Harm

Coaches take reasonable steps to avoid harming their athletes or other participants, and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.

## 12. Misuse of Coaches' Influence

Because coaches' judgments and actions may affect the lives of others, they are alert to guard against personal, financial, social, organizational, or political factors that might lead to misuse of their influence.

## 13. Multiple Relationships

(a) In many communities and situations, it may not be feasible or reasonable for coaches to avoid social or other non-coaching contacts with athletes and other participants. Coaches must always be

sensitive to the potential harmful effects of other contacts on their work and on those persons with whom they deal. A coach refrains from entering into or promising a personal, professional, financial, or other type of relationship with such persons if it appears likely that such a relationship might impair the coach's objectivity or otherwise interfere with the coach effectively performing his or her function, or might harm or exploit the other party.

(b) Likewise, whenever feasible, a coach refrains from taking on obligations when preexisting relationships would create a risk of harm.

(c) If a coach finds that, due to unforeseen factors, a potentially harmful multiple relationship has arisen, the coach attempts to resolve it with due regard for the best interests of the affected person and maximal compliance with the Ethics Code.

## 14. Exploitative Relationships

(a) Coaches do not exploit athletes or other participants over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority.

(b) Coaches do not engage in sexual/romantic relationships with athletes or other participants over whom the coach has evaluative, direct, or indirect authority, because such relationships are likely to impair judgment or be exploitative.

## 15. Delegation To, And Supervision Of Subordinates

(a) Coaches delegate to their assistants only those responsibilities that such persons can reasonably be expected to perform competently, on the basis of their education, training or experience, either independently or with the level of supervision being provided.

(b) Coaches provide proper training and supervision to their assistants or substitutes, as well as take reasonable steps to see that such persons perform services responsibly, competently, and ethically.

## B. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

### 1. Avoidance Of False Or Deceptive Statements

Coaches do not make public statements that are false, deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent (either due to what they state, convey or suggest, or because of what they omit) concerning their work activities or those of persons or organizations with which they are affiliated. As examples (and not in limitation) of this standard, coaches do not make false or deceptive statements concerning:

- (a) their training, experience, or competence;
- (b) their academic degrees;
- (c) their credentials;
- (d) their institutional or association affiliations;
- (e) their services;
- (f) the basis for, or results or degree of success of their services; or
- (g) their criminal record.

### 2. Media Presentations

When coaches provide advice or comment by means of public lectures, demonstrations, radio or television programs, prerecorded tapes, printed articles, mailed material, or other media, they take reasonable precautions to ensure that the statements are consistent with this Ethics Code.

### 3. Testimonials

Coaches do not solicit testimonials from current athletes or other participants who, because of their particular circumstances, are vulnerable to undue influence.

## C. TRAINING ATHLETES

### 1. Structuring The Relationship

- (a) Coaches discuss with athletes, as early as it is feasible, appropriate issues such as the nature and anticipated course of training.
  - (b) When the coach's work with athletes will be supervised, the above discussion includes that fact, and the name of the supervisor.
  - (c) Coaches make reasonable efforts to answer athletes' questions and to avoid apparent misunderstandings about training. Whenever possible, coaches provide oral and/or written information, using language that is reasonably understandable to the athlete.
2. Coach/Parent Relationships
- (a) When a coach agrees to provide services to several persons who have a relationship (such as parents and children), the coach attempts to clarify at the outset the relationship they will have with each person. This clarification includes the role of the coach and the probable uses of the services provided.
  - (b) As soon as it becomes apparent that the coach may be called on to perform conflicting roles (such as mediator between parents and children or sibling teammates), the coach attempts to clarify and adjust or withdraw from roles appropriately.
3. Sexual Intimacies With Current Athletes
- Coaches do not engage in sexual intimacies with current athletes.
4. Coaching Former Sexual Partners
- Coaches do not coach athletes with whom they have engaged in sexual intimacies.
5. Sexual Intimacies With Former Athletes
- (a) Coaches should not engage in sexual intimacies with a former athlete for at least two years after cessation or termination of professional services.
  - (b) Because sexual intimacies with a former athlete are so frequently harmful to the athlete, and because such intimacies undermine public confidence in the coaching profession and thereby deter the public's use of needed services, coaches do not engage in sexual intimacies with former athletes even after a two-year interval except in the most unusual circumstances. The coach who engages in such activity after the two years following cessation or termination of the coach-athlete relationship bears the burden of demonstrating that there has been no exploitation, in light of all relevant factors, including:
    - (1) the amount of time that has passed since the coach-athlete relationship terminated,
    - (2) the circumstances of termination,
    - (3) the athlete's personal history,
    - (4) the athlete's current mental status,
    - (5) the likelihood of adverse impact on the athlete and others, and
    - (6) any statements or actions made by the coach during the course of the athlete-coach relationship suggesting or inviting the possibility of a post-termination sexual or romantic relationship with the athlete or coach.
6. Drug-Free Sport
- Coaches do not tolerate the use of performance-enhancing drugs and support athletes' efforts to be drug free.
7. Alcohol, Tobacco and Gambling
- (a) Coaches discourage the use of alcohol and tobacco in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at playing sites and forbid the use of alcohol by minors.
  - (b) Coaches refrain from tobacco, alcohol and gambling use while they are coaching and make every effort to avoid their use while in the presence of their athletes.

- (c) Coaches discourage gambling in conjunction with athletic events, at playing sites and during road trips.

8. Pornography

- (a) Coaches discourage the use of pornographic material.
- (b) Coaches refrain from the use of pornography while they are coaching and make every effort to avoid pornography while in the presence of their athletes.
- (c) Coaches do not engage in illicit behavior or activities with athletes or other participants over whom the coach has direct or indirect authority.

D. TRAINING SUPERVISION

1. Design Of Training Programs

Coaches who are responsible for training programs for other coaches seek to ensure that the programs are competently designed, provide the proper experiences and meet the requirements for coaching education or other goals for which claims are made by the program.

2. Descriptions Of Training Programs

- (a) Coaches responsible for training programs for other coaches seek to ensure that there is a current and accurate description of the program content, training goals and objectives, and requirements that must be met for satisfactory completion of the program. This information must be readily available to all interested parties.
- (b) Coaches seek to ensure that statements concerning their training programs are accurate and not misleading.

3. Accuracy And Objectivity In Coaching

- (a) When engaged in coaching, coaches present information accurately and with a reasonable degree of objectivity.
- (b) When engaged in coaching, coaches recognize the power they hold over athletes and therefore make reasonable efforts to avoid engaging in conduct that is personally demeaning to athletes and other participants.

4. Honoring Commitments

Coaches take responsible measures to honor all commitments they have made to all participants.

E. TEAM SELECTION

1. Recruiting

Coaches do not engage, directly or through agents, in uninvited in-person solicitation of business or services from actual or potential athletes or other participants who, because of their particular circumstances, are vulnerable to undue influence. However, this does not preclude recruiting athletes deemed exceptional by USA Hockey.

2. Tampering

In deciding whether to recruit players already on another team, coaches must carefully consider the potential athlete's welfare. The coach must discuss these issues with the player's present coach first, then the player's parents before approaching the athlete in order to minimize the risk of confusion and conflict.

3. In-Season Contact

Contact with any player(s) should not occur during the progress of a season when the player's team is still actively engaged in their schedule of play. The only exception would be regarding participation on a USA Hockey National Team on a temporary assignment basis, where the player would be returned to his/her regular team at the conclusion of the assignment.

4. Player Selection

Coaches perform evaluations or team selection only in a manner consistent with the Ethical Code.

5. Assessing Athlete Performance

- (a) In coach-athlete relationships, coaches establish an appropriate process for providing feedback to athletes.
- (b) Coaches evaluate athletes on the basis of their actual performance on relevant and established program requirements.

**F. RESOLVING ETHICAL ISSUES**

**1. Familiarity With Ethics Code**

Coaches have an obligation to be familiar with this Ethics Code (or as it may be amended from time to time), other applicable ethics codes and their application to the coach's work. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct.

**2. Confronting Ethical Issues**

When a coach is uncertain whether a particular situation or course of action would violate the Ethics Code, the coach ordinarily consults with other coaches knowledgeable about ethical issues, with their Association, Affiliate or District with USA Hockey.

**3. Conflicts Between Ethics and Organizational Demands**

If the demands of an organization with which coaches are affiliated conflict with this Ethics Code, coaches clarify the nature of the conflict, make known their commitment to this Ethics Code, and to the extent feasible, seek to resolve the conflict in a way that permits the fullest adherence to the Ethics Code.

**4. Informal Resolutions Of Ethical Violations**

When USA Hockey participants believe that there may have been an ethical violation by a coach, they attempt to resolve the issue by bringing it to the attention of that individual in an informal manner.

**5. Reporting Ethical Violations**

If an apparent ethical violation is not appropriate for informal resolution under Standard F4 or is not resolved properly in that fashion, participants and the association may take further action by:

Participant

- (a) Contacting the coach's Association President or appropriate designee.
- (b) Confirm with the coach's Association President if there was an attempt for an informal resolution.
- (c) Complete an Ethical Violation Form available through the Association President or designee.

Association

- (a) Will review the Ethical Violation charge using the appropriate due process procedure as outlined in USA Hockey's Annual Guide, By-Law G, 10 Suspensions and Resolution of Disputes.
- (b) Will give a copy of the completed Ethical Violation form to the coach in question seven (7) days prior to the association's review.
- (c) Will keep a written report on all reviews and actions.

**6. Cooperating With Ethics Committees**

Coaches cooperate in ethics investigations, proceedings, and resulting requirements of USA Hockey and any of its member organizations. Failure to cooperate is itself an ethics violation.

**7. Improper Complaints**

Participants do not file or encourage the filing of ethics complaints that are frivolous and are intended to harm the respondent rather than protect the public.

**G. PROCESS RELATING TO VIOLATION OF CODE**

- 1. The Coach acknowledges that this Ethics Code is administered under the authority of USA Hockey and its member organizations, that a violation of the Code subjects the coach to the processes of USA Hockey and its member organizations. USA Hockey and its member organizations acknowledge that all violations of the Ethics Code will be reviewed for possible

disciplinary action, and member organizations will keep a written report on all reviews and actions.

- 2. In the event that a violation of the Ethics Code occurs during an authorized USA Hockey activity, USA Hockey may take action separate and independent from that of its member organizations in order to protect its interests and those of athletes, coaches and others involved with the activity.
- 3. Any action taken by a member organization of USA Hockey which affects the opportunity of a coach to participate in "protected" competition as defined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide shall be entitled to due processes assured under the USA Hockey By-Laws.
- 4. If the violation of the Ethics Code occurs while a coach is a member of a USA Hockey team or event, the coach's member organization acknowledges that USA Hockey may institute its own proceedings regarding the violation, which action shall not restrict the ability or obligation of the member organization to take its own separate and independent action.
- 5. In the event that a coach is found to have violated the Ethics Code, such action is separate and apart from any other legal consequences which may occur as a result of the act.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This Coaching Code of Ethics is the result of the work of many people and committees. A complete list of acknowledgments may be found on the USA Hockey website:

[www.usahockey.com/coaches/ethics.htm](http://www.usahockey.com/coaches/ethics.htm)