

Date: Tuesday, August 7/2007

Subject: Operating Committee Meeting – Rules Change Proposals

Attendees: Grey Bullen
Tom Day
Rob Lorenzen
Troy MacCormick
Jim Norman
John Sherlock

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00pm

- 1) Discuss process for reviewing Operating Rules Change and By-Law changes.
- 2) Reviewed the Enclosed two (2) changes that will be initiated by the Board of Directors.
- 3) Discussed and voted on the enclosed Proposed Rules Changes, results were as follows:
Proposed Rule Change 1: Unanimously Approved
Proposed Rule Change 2: Unanimously Denied
Proposed Rule Change 3: Unanimously Denied
Proposed Rule Change 4: Unanimously Denied
Proposed Rule Change 5: Unanimously Denied
Proposed Rule Change 1 will be presented to Board of Directors for Voting.
- 4) Next meeting will be to decide League Structure, date to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm



2007-2008 Rule Change Proposal Form

Proposed Rule Change 1:

Current Operating Rule Affected:

- A. In the Varsity Division, the top 12 teams will be selected as playoff participants. Four teams will receive "byes" in the first round.
1. If the league is split into three conferences within Division I, the top three teams in each conference plus the next three highest teams (via points system in VII. – E. of this document) will qualify for the playoffs. The top team in each conference plus the next highest team overall will receive the byes.
 2. If the Varsity Division is split into four conferences the four conference champions will receive the byes and the top three teams in each conference will qualify for the playoffs.

Rule Change Proposal: XI, A

- A. In the Varsity Division, 12 teams will be selected as playoff participants. Four teams will receive "byes" in the first round.
1. If the league is split into two conferences within Division I, the top three teams in each conference plus the next six highest teams (via points system in VII. – E. of this document) will qualify for the playoffs. The top two teams in each conference will receive byes.
 2. If the league is split into three conferences within Division I, the top three teams in each conference plus the next three highest teams (via points system in VII. – E. of this document) will qualify for the playoffs. The top team in each conference plus the next highest team overall will receive byes.
 3. If the league is split into four conferences within Division I, the top two teams in each conference plus the next four highest teams (via points system in VII. – E. of this document) will qualify for the playoffs. The top team in each conference will receive a bye.
 4. Teams will be seeded for playoff games via the points system in VII. E. of this document. However, teams which earn a first round bye will be seeded as the top team in each second round game.

Rationale for Rule Change:

The rationale for this proposed change is to have some uniformity in the way playoff teams are selected regardless of how the league might be configured for scheduling purposes from year to year. It is also to ensure that the 12 teams with the best overall records make the playoffs. (We have had situations in past seasons in which a team with a 6-4 record did not make the playoffs while teams with 4-6 and 4-5-1 records did). Subparagraph 4 simply codifies existing practice.

FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee: Yes

Approved through Board of Directors:

Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Proposed Rule Change 2:

Current Operating Rule Affected: Rule IV, D, 2

D. Game Ice. Each team planning to compete in League Scheduled games in Varsity or Junior Varsity is responsible for providing half of the total games slots for the NVSHL Season (example, if the NVSHL Regular season is 10 games long, teams are required to provide 5 slots for home games). The five home slots need to be submitted to the league by Oct. 15

1. The game slot must be a minimum of 1.5 hours long. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved in advance by the League Scheduler.
2. The game slots must be on weekdays (Monday through Friday) during the League's announced season. Game slots scheduled during the holiday season are not acceptable for scheduling League games. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved in advance by the League Scheduler. With the approval of both teams and the League Scheduler, teams may play games on weekends.
3. Games must be able to begin no earlier than 4:00 PM or later than 8:30 PM on weekdays and 9:45 PM on Fridays. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved in advance by the League Scheduler.
4. To the extent possible, a team's games will be scheduled to play on slots the team provided.

Rule Change Proposal:

2. The game slots must be on weekdays (Monday through Friday) during the League's announced season. Game slots scheduled during the holiday season are not acceptable for scheduling League games. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved in advance by the League Scheduler. To provide the League Scheduler with flexibility to accommodate games beginning after 6:00 PM but before 8:30 PM on Sundays, each team must provide the League Scheduler with a list of four (4) Sunday dates between December 1 and February 15 on which the team agrees to play. No team will be required to play on the Sundays included within the Martin Luther King or President's Day weekends. Otherwise, teams may play games on weekends only with the approval of both teams and the League Scheduler,.

Rationale for Rule Change:

To permit the League Scheduler to schedule Sunday evening games without having to secure the consent of both teams to play on a particular date on a game-by-game basis.

FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee:
Approved through Board of Directors:
Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Proposed Rule Change 3:

Current Operating Rule Affected: Rule IV, B of the NVSHL Operating Rules.

B. Provisional Membership: Is granted to two schools that partner to form one team. Provisional Members must also assign an adult Member Representative to the League.

1. A school that can roster 15 players must play as a Regular Member unless that school does not have a goaltender among those 15.
2. If a team becomes "Provisional" because of lack of goaltender, that team may only roster a goalie from an outside school.
3. A Provisional Team must exhaust interest from the "base" school before rostering players from a second school.
4. No Provisional Team may be comprised of players from more than two schools.
5. Provisional Teams will document the steps taken, within each school, to market and promote team membership from the beginning of the school year until the end of the NVSHL season. These steps are to be submitted to the NVSHL Executive Director and the Operating Committee at a date to be determined annually.
6. Provisional Team rosters will be submitted by the deadlines as decided by the NVSHL Operating Committee.

Rule Change Proposal:

B. Provisional Membership: Is granted to two schools that partner to form one team. Provisional Members must also assign an adult Member Representative to the League.

1. A school that can roster 15 players must play as a Regular Member unless that school does not have a goaltender among those 15.
2. If a team becomes "Provisional" because of lack of goaltender, that team may only roster a goalie from an outside school.
3. A Provisional Team must exhaust interest among capable players , as defined in Operating Rule II.A.4, from the "base" school before rostering players from a second school.
4. No Provisional Team may be comprised of players from more than two schools.
5. Provisional Teams will document the steps taken, within each school, to market and promote team membership from the beginning of the school year until the end of the NVSHL season. These steps are to be submitted to the NVSHL Executive Director and the Operating Committee at a date to be determined annually.
6. Provisional Team rosters will be submitted by the deadlines as decided by the NVSHL Operating Committee.
7. Students attending a local Governor's School are eligible to play for their "home-based" school hockey team without considering the "home-based" school team a provisional member.

Rationale for Rule Change:

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) is a public Governor's School supported by the Northern Virginia school districts of Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, as well as the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. Due to the transportation logistics of the school's student body, club and sports activities that do not meet at the end of the school day are typically not feasible. TJHSST assists in this area by setting aside the end of day 8th block, two days a week, for clubs to meet. These circumstances do not support forming a TJHSST school-based hockey club, even as a provisional participant.

The geographic distribution of TJHSST's student body makes the school a representative for ALL of the Northern Virginia public high schools. Given that TJHSST does not, and will not in the foreseeable future, field a hockey club, this request is for a modification to the NVSHL Operating Rules to allow TJHSST students to play for their "home-based" schools while allowing the home-based schools to play as a full participant in the NVSHL (non-provisional).

FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee:

Approved through Board of Directors:

Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Proposed Rule Change 4:

VI. SCHEDULES

D. Lack of Certified Officials. The League will arrange for referees for League games. In the event that USA Hockey referees do not show for a scheduled game, the contest will not be played. If only one referee is available for the League game, both coaches must agree to play the game and will sign the score sheet – prior to the game -- noting their agreement to use one referee.

Rule Change Proposal:

D. Lack of Certified Officials. The League will arrange for referees for League games. All on-ice officials assigned to NVSHL Varsity games must be either Level 3 or Level 4 USA Hockey certified officials with registration in good standing for the current season. The approved system for NVSHL games is three officials; one referee and two linesman. In the event that one of the officials does not show for a scheduled game, the contest may be played with a two referee system. Both coaches must agree to play the game and will sign the score sheet – prior to the game -- noting their agreement to use the two referee system.

Rationale for Rule Change:

The use of a 3 official system, with only Level 3 or Level 4 USA Hockey certified officials, brings the NVSHL into conformance with USA Hockey Guidelines. Beyond compliance with USA Hockey guidelines provides for the safe playing environment as envisioned in the NVSHL Mission statement.

FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee:

Approved through Board of Directors:

Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Proposed Rule Change 5:

Current Operating Rule Affected:

X. SUSPENSIONS / PENALTIES

D. NVSHL Rules apply to all penalties received in non-League Games played between League teams. Game suspensions assessed during non-League games between League teams must be served in subsequent and sequential games that were previously scheduled -- including USA Hockey referee participation -- at the time of the penalty.

Rule Change Proposal:

X. SUSPENSIONS / PENALTIES

D. NVSHL Rules apply to all penalties received in non-League Games played between League teams. Such non-league games may only occur in sanctioned USA Hockey events. Game suspensions assessed during non-League games between League teams must be served in subsequent and sequential games that were previously scheduled -- including USA Hockey referee participation -- at the time of the penalty.

NVSHL teams competing in non-league events must comply with the following:

1. Definition of a Game: An ice hockey game is a match played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey or a member organization of the IHF. USA Hockey playing rules or approved modification thereof shall apply.

2. Registered USA Hockey ice hockey teams shall not participate in games against nonregistered teams without prior written approval of the appropriate registrar. The district risk manager and district referee-in-chief shall receive a copy of such written approval. Violation of this rule shall subject the team to suspension by the appropriate affiliate.

3. Definition of a Tournament: Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where three or more legally-registered teams compete within a specified time frame for the purpose of declaring a champion. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams, except Association Exchanges (limited to two (2) Associations), even though there are no winners declared.

4. All invitational ice hockey tournaments that involve USA Hockey registered teams and/or another amateur hockey federation or association must receive the sanction of the appropriate registrar for the district where the tournament will be held.

5. The conditions for sanction of an ice hockey tournament are as follows:

- (1) Written application on the official USA Hockey invitational tournament application form must be submitted to the appropriate registrar for the district where the tournament will be held.
- (2) The appropriate registrar, with the approval of the applicant's affiliate association, may issue a sanction where no exceptions to USA Hockey rules and regulations are involved.
- (3) Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the full rules, regulations, and the complete procedures of the tournament. Where a tournament desires to use exceptions to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, such exceptions must be approved in advance by the appropriate registrar and the host affiliate association.
- (4) Only USA Hockey-registered referees may officiate tournament games, unless specifically approved otherwise.
- (5) Only USA Hockey playing rules and age divisions may be used in tournament play, unless specifically approved otherwise.
- (6) The sanction fees listed below for invitational tournaments must be complied with.
 - USA Hockey teams only – \$25
 - USA Hockey and another federation – \$50

NVSHL teams that compete in non-sanctioned events will be subject to forfeiture of their next regularly scheduled league game.

Rationale for Rule Change:

USA Hockey provides a strict definition of "sanctioned events". Teams that participate in "non-sanctioned" events place players and coaches at risk, since no insurance coverage is provided for such events. Further, participation by USA Hockey members in "non-sanctioned" events is subject to suspension.

This rule change brings the NVSHL into alignment with USA Hockey guidance.

FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee:

Approved through Board of Directors:

Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

By-Law Change 1:

Current By-Law Affected:

ARTICLE IV - FEES

Section 1. Member Fees.

Member Fees shall be charged to all Members, regardless of membership classification, as a prerequisite to participation each year and from time to time for NVSHL's activities. The Board of Directors shall develop and present the proposed annual budget, fees and schedule of payment and present them to the NVSHL Members for approval during the Annual Meeting as defined under Article V, Section1 of these Bylaws. The proposed annual budget shall include a contingency amount equal to 10% of the total budget, which contingency may be utilized by the Board of Directors to cover cost over-runs and unanticipated expenses.

By-Law Proposal:

ARTICLE IV - FEES

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However, the proposed annual budget shall not include a contingency amount if the funds held by the Corporation as a contingency fund on the date of the Corporation's Annual Meeting are equal to or greater than forty percent (40%)of the total proposed annual budget.

FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee:

Approved through Board of Directors:

Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

By-Law Change 2:

Current By-Law Affected:

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 4. Notice of Meetings.

- (a) Notice of time, place and purpose of the annual and special meetings shall be given, at least ten, but not more than sixty, days prior to the meeting, except that notice of a Members meeting to act on an amendment of the articles of incorporation, a plan of merger, a proposed sale of assets pursuant to §13.1-900 of the Virginia Code or the dissolution of the corporation shall be given not less than twenty-five, nor more than sixty, days before the meeting, by personal delivery to each Member, or by mailing a written or printed notice of same, with postage prepaid, to each Member, addressed to the last known post office address of the Member Representative. If mailed, the notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States Mail.

By-Law Proposal:

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FOR NVSHL USE:

Approved through Operating Committee:

Approved through Board of Directors:

Approved by NVSHL Membership:

VOTE COUNT:

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE