



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Policy & Guidelines

Financial Dispute Policy

Section: Administration

Approved: January 20, 2017

USA Hockey amended Bylaw 10 in 2016 to address procedures applicable to a participant ineligibility determination based on a financial dispute made by a local program (i.e., XYZ Hockey Association). A local program may, pursuant to its internal procedures, determine that a participant that is delinquent in dues or fees owed to the program is not eligible to continue participating in the local program during such delinquency. If the USA Hockey Affiliate (such as MAHA) has a procedure in place, the local program may seek to apply the ineligibility determination throughout the Affiliate.

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (the MAHA) adopts this policy in an effort to comply with USA Hockey Bylaw 10 and is applicable in any instance in which a local program desires to cause a player to be ineligible throughout the MAHA. The local program must demonstrate the following if it seeks to apply an ineligibility determination based on participant delinquency in dues or fees throughout the MAHA:

1. The local program must have written internal procedures in place adopted by its Board of Directors or, if applicable, managing entity and provide the adopted written procedure to the applicable MAHA District Chair.
2. At a minimum, the local program must deliver a written notice to the participant or his or her legal guardian that (i) describes the nature of the delinquent fees, (ii) states the amount due and owing to the local program, (iii) advises that the participant or his or her legal guardian must notify the local program in writing within 30 days of receipt of the notice if there is an objection to the financial obligation, and (iv) advises that, if the full amount is not paid within the 30 day period, then the local program may in its discretion seek to enforce the financial obligation and have the participant deemed ineligible throughout the MAHA. Delivery of the notice may be made by first class mail or other delivery of service or electronic mail in the discretion of the local program.
3. The local program and the participant (or his or her legal guardian) are encouraged to try and amicably resolve the disputed amounts during the 30 day period. If the local program and the participant (or his or her legal guardian) enter into a written agreement to resolve the debt and make provisions for payment within the 30 day period, then the participant remains eligible to participate in the local program and/or all USA Hockey programs.



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4. If the amount claimed has not been paid and there is no written agreement at the expiration of the 30 day period, and the local program has not received written notice from the participant or his or her legal guardian that it disputes the financial obligation, then the local program may request that the MAHA deem the participant to be ineligible to participate in any program with the MAHA. The local program shall make this request to the MAHA President or the MAHA VP of Appeals within 10 days of expiration of the 30 day period. The MAHA representative shall then have the right to request documentation to substantiate compliance with Paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Policy. If satisfied that the local program has followed the applicable procedures, then the MAHA would extend the ineligibility of the participant throughout the MAHA and report that determination to the MAHA Registrar. The MAHA Registrar shall not register that participant in any MAHA program, including Development Camps, Select Tryouts and other similar activities, or team roster unless otherwise instructed by either the MAHA President or MAHA VP of Appeals.

5. If the amount of the financial obligation has not been paid or otherwise resolved, and the local program has received written notice from the participant or his or her legal guardian that it disputes the financial obligation, then the local program may seek to extend the ineligibility of the participant throughout the MAHA. The local program shall make this request to the MAHA VP of Appeals within 10 days of receipt of written notice from the participant or his or her legal guardian disputing the financial obligation and provide proof of compliance with Paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Policy, and copy the participant (or his or her legal guardian) on this request. The local program shall also identify the steps taken or to be taken to affirmatively enforce the obligation (file a small claims action, send to a collection agency, etc.). The participant (or his or her legal guardian) shall have 10 days from receipt of the local program's request to file a response and state why the request for ineligibility should not be extended throughout the MAHA. This response should be a complete and comprehensive document that includes all materials the party wishes to be considered. The response shall be served on the MAHA VP of Appeals and the local program.

If the Financial Disputes Committee grants the local program's request, then the MAHA would extend the ineligibility of the participant throughout the MAHA and report that determination to the MAHA Registrar. The MAHA Registrar shall not register that participant in any MAHA program or team roster unless otherwise proof of the disputed payment is received and/or instructed by either the MAHA President or MAHA VP of Appeals. Any determination by MAHA that the participant is ineligible throughout the MAHA shall not be a determination that the debt is owed or the amount of such debt, but only limited to the determination that the participant is ineligible based on the existence of a disputed debt.