



# Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

To: Association Presidents

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

Subject: Substitute Goalies

Date: November 5, 2024

Association Presidents,

Last year, the MAHA sent around a communication regarding substitute goalie rule and changes from USA Hockey that were in effect for the 2023 – 24 season. Recently, USA Hockey has amended their rules thus requiring us to communicate the changes and how they impact on our Michigan-based teams.

This season, USA Hockey has changed their rule and will allow substitute (emergency) goalies only under certain scenarios and requiring approval solely from the national tournament committee. The full rule can be found in the MAHA Tournament Guidebook, as a separate document on the MAHA State Playoff Page, and the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook. Given this new rule, the following will be in place effective immediately. For regular season and District playoffs, substitute goalies will be allowed for all Age, Division, and Classifications. For the MAHA State Tournament, all national-bound divisions will require substitute goalie approval from the USA Hockey National tournament committee. All non-national bound divisions will continue status quo.

The current MAHA substitute goalie rule pertaining to the circumstances in which a substitute goalie may be used shall be found on page 26 of MAHA's annual guidebook. It states, "A substitute goalie, under such circumstances, may be used only in the case of an injury to the regular goalie. If a team elects this method for a substitute goalie, the team may have only nineteen (19) players registered at any time so as not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed."

For the intent of this rule, injury is defined as a player who is injured or medically unable to compete. Players out due to illness, with a supporting doctor's note, will be deemed as "injured" for the intent of this rule. Thus, a substitute goalie shall be allowed.

Common situations where a substitute goalie shall not be permitted: goalie unavailable due to family vacation, conflicts with school or sporting event, team has a rostered back-up goalie who is eligible to participate, etc.

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

Thank you,

Joe Barone  
VP of Youth  
MAHA

Dan Pozdol  
Executive Vice President  
MAHA

