



## Midget – High School Age Classifications Split Season Pilot Program 2014 – 2015

### Goals:

- Sends a positive message to Michigan hockey parents that MAHA cares and desires to rectify and minimize the stress and undecidedness that hockey parents face each fall on whether to "gamble" on their child making the high school team and not having a place to play at all if he/she doesn't make that team.
- Recognize and significantly reduce the frustrations felt by 1st year high school athletes as they ponder whether they have a chance to make their high school team come tryout time in November while risking the chance they may not have any place to play if they don't tryout for a midget team that is selected earlier.
- Help address the uncertainty of minor hockey associations and arena management on whether to budget ice for a midget team that might have too many or not enough players come November based on the number of players trying out for the local high school team(s).
- Reduce the uncertainty for midget and high school coaches on how many players they will each have once high school tryouts conclude.
- Increase skill development for all players in these divisions by providing more competitive training and game opportunities prior to MHSAA season.
- Allow High School Players to play fall sports and still be able to join a hockey team for the late season.
- Allow more high school age players to participate on both MAHA and MHSAA teams.
- Reduce the competition between MAHA and MHSAA programs who are each recruiting the same players for their teams.
- Allow all Midget age players the opportunity to play for the State and National Championship.
- More early-season ice utilization for rinks

### Season Dates:

- Early Season 8/1 with playoffs concluded by second weekend in November. (11/9/14)  
**(Teams must declare if they will be Early, Late or Full Season teams)**
- Late Season starts 12/1 and runs through 3/31
- Full Season is for teams playing both the Early and Late Season

### Early Season:

#### Midget A, AA (National Bound)

- League Play 8/15 to 10/19
- Playoffs including States 10/20 – 11/8 (See below for details)
  - New Double Elimination Format
  - 10 Games for a player in classification and 20 games for a team applies to be eligible for playoffs
  - 11/9 Early Season rosters of teams advancing to State Finals go dormant until MHSAA High School season is over.

#### Midget B, BB (Non-National Bound)

- Exhibition / League / Tournament Play 8/15 to 11/8

#### High School Non-Varsity (Non-National Bound)

*It is recommended that these teams play in the A/AA division in the early season with their High School*

- Exhibition / Tournament Play 8/15 to 11/8

### Late Season:

#### Midget A, AA (National Bound)

- A, AA Players not going to HS Teams can form A/AA late season teams

**Rosters May ONLY contain players who are not on rosters that have gone dormant at the end of the Early Season**

- League Play 12/1 – 2/22
- Playoffs including States 2/23 – 3/16 (See below for details)

**Midget B, BB (Non-National Bound)**

- A, AA Players not going to HS Team after 11/8 will be added to teams as follows
  - Added to association teams following draft order keeping teams equal as possible
  - If additional team is added, all teams must be drafted
- League Play 12/1 – 2/22
- Playoffs including States 2/23 – 3/16 (See below for details)

**High School Non-Varsity (Non-National Bound)**

***It is recommended that these teams play in the A/AA division in the early season***

- Tryouts for Late Season Team 10/20 – 11/8
- League Play 12/1 – 2/22
- Playoffs including States 2/23 – 3/16 (See below for details)

**Full Season:**

**Midget A, AA (National Bound)**

- A, AA committed to play in both early and late season
- May add players from early season teams after HS tryouts.

**Rosters May ONLY contain players who are not on rosters that have gone dormant at the end of the Early Season**

- League Play – Both early and late league seasons
- Playoffs including States 2/23 – 3/16. These team would **NOT** participate in early season playoffs unless there are too few teams for playoffs (See below for details)

**Playoff Format:**

- Teams intending to play only the Early Season or intending to play as Full Season teams must declare so prior to 8/1.
- All Midget playoffs will be played using new double elimination format with no district playoffs
- The number of Full Season teams declaring will determine the final format for the playoffs. **(Final format will be determined by 9/1)**

**Proposed Format:**

- Early Season teams (Midget A & AA Only) begin playoffs on or about 10/20 with finals to select team advancing to State Championship completed by 11/8
  - 10 Games for a player in classification and 20 games for a team applies to be eligible for playoffs
  - New Double Elimination Format
  - Teams will play down to a number to be determined based on total entries for Early and Late Season play
  - 11/9 Early Season rosters go dormant until MHSAA High School Season is over.
- Late Season teams begin playoffs on or about 2/23 leading to finals the weekend after MHSAA finals
  - Midget A & AA teams must have 10 Games for a player in classification and 20 games for a team applies to be eligible for playoffs
  - Midget B & BB and Non-Varsity High School teams must have 7 Games for a player in classification and 14 games for a team applies to be eligible for playoffs
  - New Double Elimination Format (no districts)
  - State Championship finals for Midget A & AA will be played the weekend after the MHSAA finals where Early and Late Season finalist will compete. Winners advance to National Tournament.