Minutes of the CHC Board of Directors Meeting, March 22, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL:** Art Blakeslee brought the meeting to order

Directors Present: All except: Avon, Central, Polar Bears, Wolfpack, Darien, Enfield, Greater New Haven, Griffin, Kent, Northeast, Southeastern, Southern and The Whalers. Notwithstanding these absences, a Quorum is satisfied. The attendance log reflecting tonight’s attendance is made as an attachment to these minutes.

Board Officers Present: Secretary, Art Blakeslee; Treasurer, Michael Federico

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Mary Turner; Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; District II Commissioner, Brad Conlan; Tier 1 Director and District-III Commissioner, Art Blakeslee; Girls Director, Joe Dymarczyk; Tournament Chair, Chuck Wilkerson; Grow the Game Director, Ken Dixon; New England District, Tom Regan

**GUEST PRESENTATION:** Pat Fisher, speaking for the Nutmeg Games. Statewide games run in 22 different sports during the summer. There is an ice hockey tournament, from mites through midgets, being run July 26-31 at Newington Arena, and a Girls tournament for U-12 & U-14 August 4-7. Teams will get a three game guarantee. Handouts were provided for teams that wish to participate.

**ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

The January minutes as published had minor technical corrections incorporated and were then approved. The February minutes also had minor items discussed and incorporated and were then approved.

**REPORTS**

**President:** Absent

**Vice President:** Absent

**Secretary:** Attendance for several programs required Board Appeal to reinstate good standing. The following programs requested and were granted Good Standing by vote of the Membership:

Central, Northern Lights, Pawling, Salisbury, Simsbury

**Treasurer:**

* A reminder that tournament fee amounts are pending and will be posted to the website shortly.
* Host programs are instructed to review and are encouraged to use the ice fee invoice template that has been posted to the Documents section of the Website. Invoices presented without the required information, as well as invoices directly from rinks, will not be honored.
* Funds are still available for programs for their Grow the Game efforts, with a match of $1 for $1.
* The RefPay system is operating as expected. Referee payments were current through the bulk of the tournament weekends paid to date.

**Website:** No report

**Disabled Hockey:** No report

**Grow-the –Game / Marketing**: Tournament Central has been extremely popular, with the most hits ever on the website. With 42 days of tournaments run, there have been approximately 344,000 views. There will be an episode in the next week about sled hockey to help spread the news and give viewers an idea of what it is about. If programs (not rinks) have Learn to Skate or Learn to Play sessions coming up, send Ken the information and he will get it onto the site.

**Referee in Chief:** Absent

**Girls:** Camp invitations are going out for all age groups this week.

Tier 1 Regionals were swept by Mid Fairfield

Tier 2 Regionals, U-14 won by Casco, ME, U-16 by NH Capitals & U-19 by CT Northern Lights

**Registrar:**

* Patches are available for individual awards.

**Coaching Education Program.** Amy Landino, speaking for Bruce Wolanin: Level 4 clinics in CT and NH have been posted to the USAH site.

**New England District/Team Connecticut:**

* All tournaments have been completed and the representatives for CT and New England have been determined.
* The new Director of Player Development for New England is Reid Cashman.
* The Boys Development Camp will be held at Keene State. For the 2003 birth year only, a player must be registered on a CHC team and a state resident in order to try out.

**Tournament Director:**  Tournaments are over.

**Eligibility (Kathy Ludwig):**  Releases will not be granted without a destination program. There are no “wildcard” releases, and no second releases without CHC approvals. Preliminary lists of releases for next season will be sent to programs in the next week.

**District Commissioners:**

* Kathy Ludwig: Parent Behavior has been very problematic in recent weeks during the tournaments. Citations of instances of players using social media to taunt or bully other players is a SafeSport violation and will be handled accordingly if presented with supporting evidence.
* Brad Conlan: CHC will use video to review incidents that have been already identified by the on-ice officials. We will not take unsolicited video of events that were not called by officials and try to impose penalties based solely on those videos.
* Discussion was also held about programs following appropriate protocol for escalating issues up through their president and/or CHC Rep to bring to the appropriate CHC party, and that CHC officials would not accept complaints, observations, videos, etc. directly from parents, coaches or other non-officials of a program.
* Discussion was also held that if a team or program has specific, documentable issues with a particular referee, then that information should be sent up the program command structure and then given to Barry Zalcman to address. Issues that can be documented are definitely reviewed and taken seriously, and discipline can result if appropriate.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Shoreline Sharks:**  The vote for full membership was in favor, and the Shoreline Sharks are our newest member.
* **Mites:**  Connecticut has received approval for a limited schedule, beginning after December 25, 2016, allowing six full ice games plus a tournament. Jarry will be sending a letter to all Presidents with the full details from the letter from USA Hockey’s Competition Committee.
* **Putnam Youth Hockey Declaration Proposal:** Discussion was held, and it was clarified as to the level of membership of Pawling Youth Hockey, as well as the ability of Pawling and Putnam to declare at any level, based on their status as full members.
* **2017 Tournament Formats:**  A discussion was held regarding the proposed implementation of CT Hockey Ratings to determine tiers. The on-line survey of the membership results were announced. Of eligible members, 7 programs voted for the Status Quo; 13 programs voted for utilizing CHR for Tier 2 and below, except for Bantam Tier 2; and 7 programs voted to utilize CHR for Tier 3 and below, with all Tier 2 by declaration. A proposal was made by Yale to eliminate the requirement of Bantam to declare Tier 2. The Eligibility Chair noted that USA Hockey rules require National-bound teams, which includes Bantam Tier 2, to declare Tier 2. At that point, the motion was tabled without discussion. Yale then requested that the rule regarding declaration be circulated to the Presidents, and the Eligibility Chair agreed. Programs selecting option 3 were then asked whether they would support 1 or 2 if 3 was not an option, and the majority of those present and voting indicated 2. The Tournament Committee will be working to put together their proposal based on this information, with the hopes that a proposal can be presented to the membership not less than 10 days prior to the April meeting. This will allow discussion and potential action on the proposal at that time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tom Regan, as Past President, chairs the Nominating Committee, and is looking for nominations to fill the following posts:

President and Treasurer – Scheduled end of two year terms

Vice President – Special election to complete the term of Mike McCullough, who must step down as he is the new New England District Registrar.

Please contact Tom if you are interested in any of the positions.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A Motion to Adjourn (seconded) PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

**NEXT MEETING: April 26, 2016, 7:30 pm**

Italian American Club

35 Chase Lane, West Haven