

**WESTFIELD YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 12, 2010**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Labbe, President  
Bob Jacques, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Todd Jensen, Ice Scheduler  
Jeff Koziol, Communications Director

**APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Keith Duboff, Team Rep Coordinator  
Tom Roskey, GSL Hockey Representative

Meeting began at approximately 6:35 PM

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the June meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Paul Labbe)**

WYH has placed 13 teams in the GSL this year: 2 mini mites, 3 mites, 3 squirts, 2 pee wee, 2 bantams, 1 midget. All teams have a sufficient number of players with the exception of the bantam teams which may be short approx 3 players. The midget team is for the pre high school season, what happens to the midget team after the high school season starts will be determined based on the number of players that make the high school team.

Two teams (mite 2 and squirt 2) are still in need of a coach. Paul hopes to have this finalized soon.

A vote will be needed at the September board meeting to vote in the appointed board members.

Several meetings have been held with Amelia Park recently to discuss the ice schedule. Although no contract has been signed yet, it is expected to be soon.

Carol Appleton has assumed the full time general manager position at Amelia Park. She has been doing great things for the rink over the summer including; installing all new air conditioning units in the building, refreshing the locker rooms with new paint and repairs and updating the outdoor rink. She has also submitted a proposal to replace all of the lighting in the rink. In addition, the refreshment stand will be open Monday through Friday 4-8 PM and at 6:30 AM on weekends this season.

Some important upcoming dates for Amelia Park include:

- Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Amelia Park. Free skate from 4-8 PM. Carol has asked that WYH have representation at the rink during this time.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Springfield Falcons will be holding a practice at Amelia Park. More details to come.

- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – Skate – a – Thon
- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Winter Classic

Pam is working on a season kick off event “Puck Drop Party”. Details are being finalized. Volunteers will be needed to help with this event.

WYH will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> GSL Mini Mite Jamboree. This will be held on 9/21 or 9/22. We will be looking to form a committee to plan this event.

Cheaver Grant – Paul would like to move forward applying for this grant this year. Ludlow received it last year. A committee will be formed to work on this.

Meeting to be held with the parents of the mite teams to discuss the USA Hockey changes for the upcoming season. Date and time to be determined.

If team reps are selected before the season starts, they are encouraged to attend the Sept board meeting.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT: (Bob Jacques)**

There will be a coaches meeting coming up. Date and time to be determined. Agenda topics will include changes to the USA hockey patching requirements.

Fire & Ice Tournament – scheduled for Martin Luther King weekend. The Mite 1 & 2 teams and the Squirt 1& 2 teams will play in this tournament. Twelve visiting teams are needed, Bob has already received 12 verbal commitments. Hope to have all slots filled early this year. All teams from last year are interested in returning.

#### **ICE SCHEDULER REPORT: (Todd Jensen)**

Only 2 additional hours of ice are needed from Amelia Park. Hoping to have confirmation on this soon. Even if we are not able to secure the additional 2 hours, we will be all set for the 2010/2011 season. Great changes for this seasons practice schedule – a full season schedule is due out 9/3. The schedule provides a lot more consistency (90% of practices will occur on the same days each week). There will be very limited Friday night practices, which allows us to avoid skating 4 days in a row. There will be a bonus practice for each team every 6 weeks or so. Each team can expect 55-60 practices this year, which is in line with the 2 to 1 ratio that USA Hockey recommends.

We do have additional ice time available on Saturday and Sunday mornings for independent games. Requests should be emailed to Todd.

Goalie Clinics will increase by 50% this year. We will have the same number of skating clinics. Working with Chabot to finalize skating clinics.

No Play dates for the regular season are due to Todd no later than 10/8. Each team is allowed 6 no play dates in the regular season. No play dates for eval season were due

to Todd last week. Eval games (with the exception of the midget team) begin 10/9 – first half schedule due out by 9/3 second half schedule due out 10/25. Evaluation period ends 11/14.

Overall, the GSL has more mite through bantam teams this year which is a good sign for youth hockey in Western Mass.

#### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT: (Steve Jarvis, not present)**

First Ice payments are due on 9/1/2010. Players will not be allowed to skate for the first practice until payment is received. First payment amount is \$700. Amounts due for the mini mite, bantam and midget teams will be determined very soon). Second payments will be due 1/1/2011 – amounts to be communicated at a later date.

2010/2011 Budget almost complete. Steve will review at the September board meeting.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (Jeff Koziol):**

Jeff is in the process of exploring new website options. He is looking into sites that will allow online registration, integration with the ice scheduling software, individual team pages, email blast capability and more. GSL has voted to approve a change to their website, using League Athletics. This will allow organizations that use this same software to download the GSL schedule onto their own websites.

If you have any newsletter items email Jeff. Next newsletter due out end of August.

#### **GSL HOCKEY REPORT: (Tom Roskey)**

There will be no double headers in Troy, NY this year. Teams may move up or down based on their performance during the evaluation games. Coaches or team reps are asked to provide the stats for eval games to Todd. If requesting to move up or down, the coaches should contact Paul and Todd. Evaluation games end 11/14.

Pee Wee B & C will merge for the evaluation round, there are only 2 C teams currently. PVA from Vermont will be joining the GSL this year, with home ice being in Greenfield.

There will be new timekeepers this year. There may be times at the beginning of the season where there are two people in the time keeper box due to training. After that, only one person allowed in the box, no cell phones allowed.

Mite C teams will be playing half ice games, 5 on 5 this year. All games will be played with regular size nets, goalies and refs. Next year, all mite teams will play half ice games – this is a state wide change.

Barbara Wright will be holding a USA hockey meeting on 8/31.

No games will be starting after 3:00 this year. No Friday night games for the bantam teams.

**USA HOCKEY REPORT:**

Reminder to all players and coaches to register on the USA hockey website.

**MERCHANDE REPORT (Brenda Labbe):**

No uniforms will be ordered without payment. Uniforms are being ordered as they come in. If a uniform is needed for this season, email Brenda asap.

**EQUIPMENT REPORT (Ken Rogers):**

Not Present

**NEW BUSINESS:**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. WYH is looking to purchase pink tape for all players to use on their sticks during the month. An anonymous donation has been made to the league to cover these costs. In addition, a committee will be formed to plan a fundraising event. All donations will be made to a cancer organization. Team reps, please solicit volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at approx 8:00 p.m.