

**WESTFIELD YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2010**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Labbe, President
Bob Jacques, 1st Vice President
Todd Jensen, 2nd Vice President/Ice Scheduler
Steve Jarvis, Director of Finance
Jeff Koziol, Communications Director
Pam Bussell, Secretary

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Duboff, Team Rep Coordinator
Jen McMahon, USA Hockey

Meeting began at approximately 6:40 p.m.

A Motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the August meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Paul Labbe)

Thank you to all Board Members, Team Reps and Coaches for volunteering to work together. Hockey is a long season and I appreciate the hard work and effort that everyone puts in.

There are two board appointed positions that are up for nomination tonight.

A Motion was made and passed to accept Keith DuBoff as Team Rep Coordinator.

A Motion was made and passed to accept Jen McMahon as USA Hockey Representative.

There are other board appointed positions available if anyone is interested in helping out on a regular basis. We will also need volunteers for the Mini-Mite Jamboree. WYHA will be the first to host this Jamboree that will take place November 20 and 21. As always, we will need volunteers for the Fire & Ice Tournament that will take place in January 2011.

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Bob Jacques)

We held the first coaches meeting last week. We went over the GSL rules, Amelia Park Arena rules, USA Hockey rules and Mass Hockey rules. We told the coaches to pick a good team rep who will provide great communication to the team. The coaches were made aware of clinics they must attend to be certified and they were notified that they all must fill out a CORI form and register with USA Hockey.

The big focus for coaches this year will be concussion education. Mass hockey is pushing big on this topic for our upcoming season. We want coaches to know the symptoms.

LTS/LTP – we will not know numbers until the first day. We should have a big turnout as we have been getting a lot of calls.

Fire & Ice – out of 12 visiting teams, we already have 9 teams signed with 3 more intended teams. That is great for this early on.

ICE SCHEDULER REPORT: (Todd Jensen)

Members asked for:

- As much visibility as possible
- Limit occasions where teams would practice/play 4 days in a row
- Develop a set practice schedule

We have released the full season practice schedule. All teams practice at least 92% of the time on the same three days and all teams have at least 71% of their practice on the same two days. (These figures do not include the bonus practices.)

Bonus practices will continue to be assigned to Mite –Squirt teams. These practices will be on shared ice with the Mini-Mites.

The schedule includes front loaded skating clinics with Louis Chabot and monthly goalie clinics. This season we have increased our goalies clinics by 50%.

Weekend Practices

All teams Mite – Bantam were awarded three full ice practices during the first three weekends prior to GSL games starting. They can be used for scrimmages or practices.

Deadlines NPD

- Regular Season – October 8th – Up to 6 dates
- Playoffs - December 18th – Up to 2 dates – State Tournaments do not count
- In the event a teams practice schedule creates a conflict it is up to the coach to work with another WYHA coach to reschedule. They need to notify the ice scheduler and copy the coach they are switching with. In addition it is up to the coaches to ensure there teams know about the change as it may or may not be published on the web site.

Scrimmage Ice for Independent Games

WYHA once again has purchased ice for scrimmage games. This ice is to be used by our full ice teams for independent games, the ice available on a first come basis. There are limited scrimmage opportunities during the evaluation round. (October 23rd at 10:30 – 11:50 AM). We needed to use some of the ice we had purchased for GSL games to ensure more home games for our teams during the evaluation round.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT: (Steve Jarvis)

Ice bills are due at the 1st practice. Mini-Mites are \$200 per session. Mites, Squirts and Pee Wees are \$600 + \$100 for calendar raffle. Bantams are \$700 + \$100 for calendar raffle. Remember, no cash please. Cash will not be accepted.

100% of the proceeds of the calendar raffle will be returned to teams to reduce the cost of tournaments expenses. Last season the teams received \$1,100 each. Families with multiple kids skating need only sell one set of calendars. If calendars are not paid for at the 1st practice, \$100 will be added to the second half ice bills.

We should have the amount for the 2nd ice payment by the end of the month. It looks like we will offer a slight reduction from last season due to increased number of skaters and cash balances to support lower ice fees. Our rates are very competitive when compared to other organizations and are about 1/3 the cost of playing travel hockey.

We are looking to fill the Treasurer's position. This is a board appointed position. Barb Rogers has retired after doing this job for many, many years. Thank you Barb!

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (Jeff Koziol):

The newsletter went out last night. Please urge parents and players to sign-up for the newsletter.

Amelia Park will host a 10th Anniversary Party on Friday, 9/10 from 4 to 8 p.m. Free public skating from 4 to 8 p.m., skate rentals are \$3. There will be a cake cutting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. Everyone will get free cakes and there will also be face painting. Ice cream will be available for purchase from Ben and Jerry's and BBQ will be available for purchase from Cowpuck BBQ. WYHA players attending should wear their RED jersey.

The Big E parade for Westfield Day will take place on September 30th at 5:00 p.m. 45 kids can go with Amelia Park. Please see Carole Appleton to sign-up.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Players will receive pink tape to use on their sticks for the month. The tape has been ordered and should be in before October.

GSL REPORT (Tom Roskey)-not present:

There will be a different system this year for the schedule. Please be aware of the new system. The new GSL website should be up and running by Monday 9/13. There is a new president, ice scheduler and webmaster. They are still looking for a secretary. There are the same number of teams as last season, however, Keene, NH is no longer in the GSL.

In regards to New York teams, you may or may not play a double header when traveling to New York. Teams may also play on neutral ice to lessen the amount of returned ice to the organization. The evaluation round will last for 8 games, 4 home and 4 away. Teams may move during this round.

USA HOCKEY REPORT (Jen McMahon):

1st meeting was last Tuesday and another one is scheduled for next week. Please Team Reps remind your players to register with USA Hockey or they cannot skate at the 1st practice. Play downs application deadline for Midgets is September 26 with play downs beginning October 23. Bantams application deadline is November 1 with play downs beginning November 13. Squirt and Pee Wee will be held during February vacation.

CORI forms must be filled out by all Team Reps, Locker Room Attendants, Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Please give the CORI forms to Jen.

There is a new locker room policy in place this season. An adult must be present in the locker room or at the locker room door at all times while kids are getting ready.

Coaches – no changes to guidelines for patching this season, but changes will be in place next season.

New England Hockey Day will take place Saturday, November 6.

MERCHANDE REPORT (Brenda Labbe)-not present:

Uniform orders have already been placed and most are already in. Games socks will be given out the week before games. We have purchased the old style socks this year in the same colors because they are more durable than the socks used in the past. LTS/LTP jerseys are in. Mini-Mite jerseys came in and are being screened.

Coaches can receive a new coat every 3rd year. Coaches are eligible to receive a new coat or if their coat is in good condition, they can get a skating coat or skating pants.

We will have practice jerseys for sale next week and the old style white socks as well.

EQUIPMENT REPORT:

Water bottles are on back-order. 1st aid kits will be in by this coming Friday. Any mites interested in goalie equipment, please let Paul Labbe know as he may have to purchase some new items.

NEW BUSINESS:

WYHA Pictures are scheduled for October 12, 13 and 14, 2010. A schedule will be handed out with an order form closer to the beginning of October. We are looking for an individual interested in volunteering to keep the pictures running smoothly so that practices will stay on time.

A Motion was made and passed to provide the Merchandise Coordinator a check for \$1,000 to keep merchandise in stock and available for purchase during the season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.