

Westfield Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2012

Executive Board Members Present:

Paul Labbe, President
Bob Jacques, 1st Vice President
Todd Jensen, 2nd Vice President/Ice Scheduler
Meg Bacon, Director of Finance
Tim McMahon, Director of Communications

Appointed Board Members Present:

Jennifer McMahon, USA Rep
Steve Jarvis, Treasurer
Tom Roskey, GSL Rep
Heather Schnopp, Registrar

Meeting began at approximately 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from the June meeting. We did not hold a meeting during the month of July.

President's Report: (Paul Labbe)

- Midget Team
 - Paul will be sending out the email this weekend to see the level of interest in being on the team
 - Upon checking the site, we found that there are already 16 players registered for the Midgets.
 - We can have a roster with 18 skaters plus 2 goalies, if the team is larger then more work will be needed to determine who can dress for each game.
- As of this week, we have a goalie for each team
 - The week before practice (currently targeted for 9/6) we will be holding Goalie Evaluations.
 - We are in the process of getting evaluators for both on and off ice help.

Vice President Report: (Bob Jacques)

- The first of 2 coaches meetings have been scheduled for September 5th and will be for Head Coaches only.
- The second meeting will include both Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches and will be scheduled in the coming weeks.
- LTS/LTP session 1 will start on September 22nd. This is the first of three – 8 week sessions.
 - Cost will be \$75 per session or \$200 if you pay for all 3 sessions up front.
 - We are trying to get Corporate Sponsorship to cover the USA and MA Hockey fees associated with Registering for those participants that are over the age of 6.
 - We are looking to do a flyer that could be sent home with students via school to see if we can get more awareness of the program.
- The Fire and Ice Tournament format has been changed for this season. We will now be a Squirt level tournament only.
 - Mites will no longer be playing in the tournament
 - The tournament will consist of:
 - 6 Squirt A teams

- 6 Squirt B teams
- 4 Squirt C teams
- The tournament will still take place over the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend.

Ice Scheduler Report: (Todd Jensen)

We are in the final stages of getting the schedule set. Some key items for next year.

- Currently teams will have approximately 49 practices. This is down from last season slightly. Part of the reason is the GSL season ending earlier this season.
- We will tentatively schedule an extra routing practice each week for the Squirt and Peewee teams. This is based on the lower number of Novice skaters currently registered. If the numbers increase in this division they will move to full ice and the practices will be removed from the schedule.
- It appears Bantams will have 21 shared ice practices and 28 full ice practices.
- Between January and the middle of February we have had to contract for ice at Fitzpatrick. This was so the Bantam teams would have at least one full ice practice each week during that time period. (January and February are the busiest months of the year for Amelia Park.) Each Bantam team will have 3 practices at 8:10 PM at Fitzpatrick.
- We have provided the GSL 117 - 60 minute sheets and 32- 80 minute sheets for games this season. Some of the 60 minute sheets we had to contract for at the Olympia so it is possible that some teams will play home games at the Olympia. We have asked the GSL to use this ice last and hopefully it will be available for independent games, as it is at 2:30 PM on Saturdays. We will not know what ice is returned until the full season GSL schedule is released in October.
- We will continue to work with Louis Chabot to put on clinics for WYHA. Like last year these will be front loaded to the beginning of the season to allow players to get the greatest impact. Clinics are open to skates in the Mite-Bantam age level. More specifics will follow with the release of the schedule.
- We are hoping to continue to work with Premier Goaltending to conduct training for our goaltenders. The goal is to have on average about 1 clinic each month. Some of these clinics might end up being on Sunday evening.
- We have purchased ice for independent games the following dates, October 20, 21, November 25, December 29, 30. Each day will have one 60 minute and one 80 minute game sheet.
- We will buy ice again for a house league on Sunday nights in the second half of the season. More information and specifics to follow at a later date.
- The goal is to have the schedule published on the web site by August 20th.

Director of Finance Report: (Meg Bacon)

- We have received our first 2 credit card payments via the website already. The payment process seems to be working very well, as soon as the balance information is finalized we can send out a communication letting everyone know that it is available.
- Meg Bacon reported on the following: First payment amounts due are the following:
 - Mini Mites: \$200 per session
 - Mites: \$450
 - Squirts & Pee Wee: \$650
 - Bantams: \$750
- Squirt, PW, and Bantam Goalies will receive \$50 discount on the first ice bill and \$50 on the second ice bill. The second and final ice bill will be due January 15, 2013 and that amount will be determined by October 1, 2012 when our budget is set. Second and final payments are expected to be close to first payment amounts.

Communications Report (Tim McMahan)

- The website has been updated for the LTS/LTP program as well as for the Fire and Ice Tournament.

- All balance information had to be manually updated in the system, this has triggered some emails to be generated to those registered in the organization. The balance information should be complete no later than Monday 8/13. At that point in time credit card payments can be made to cover the first ice bill.

GSL Report: (Tom Roskey)

- The checking account has a balance of \$6213.03.
- The Scholarship account has a balance of \$1,158.11.
- All bills paid to date and scholarship awards have been awarded. Awards will be posted to the GSL website shortly.
- Coaching Clinics are now listed online
- No date yet for the Midget and Bantam District 6 Playdowns
- District 6 Playdowns for Squirt & Peewee 11/30 & 12/1
- Referee Contract
 - No Change in rate expected until next season at the earliest.
 - Referees will not agree to check coaching certifications
- USA Hockey
 - Roger Grillo is expected to come out in September and conduct checking training for Peewees and Bantams
 - USAH is looking for programs that are ADM compliant organizations (handout was given to Paul)
 - This is the last season that any Mites can play full ice games
 - A rule change for the 8U playing surface came about in June (page 129 in Annual Guide)
 - Cross ice or half ice is allowed
- GSL payments for games – no changes from last year
- Evaluation process will be the same as last year. Once every organization has turned in their teams the rate will be set.
- Hosted Tournaments
 - District 6 hosts Quirt tier IIS at Olympia, March 15-17
 - GSL hosts Squirt tier IIL & Bantam tier IV at Olympia, March 22-24
- GSL Ice scheduler – not present at the last meeting
 - Jim stated to Dan that he will try and put together a Midget schedule if all organizations turn in their number of teams, level of play and ice.
- Mite end of season jamboree/tournament to possibly be played on a weekend after the GSL playoffs have concluded, need to determine if there is ice available and whom may be hosting it.
- GSL girls hockey team – is there any interest? FCHA says they have put together a 14U team
- The GSL will post the announcement for Bertelli's sale and will also allow Gateway to post an announcement related to the tax free weekend. This is a 1 time only posting. Future postings of this nature may incur a fee.
- It was agreed that informational announcements from the GSL will both be posted to the website and be sent to affiliate organizations. It is then up to the organizations whether or not they will pass along the information to their members.
- Posting pictures/videos of games and players on the GSL website will be investigated further. There were concerns about posting video/pictures of minors without consent.
- The GSL is looking into whether unofficial rosters can be posted and accessed by coaches to help combat the illegal player situations from past seasons. These unofficial rosters would be "Read Only" and updated once at mid season.
- Falcons are still looking for organization jerseys to be displayed at the Mass Mutual center

- Dan was given one of jerseys from last season, decision was made to send the newer version (Black) to them for display.
- The Mini Mite games between periods at the Falcons' games were coordinated by Larry Reid, a volunteer is needed to perform this duty. Justin from Pioneer Valley stated he may be interested.
- Novice Jamboree for 1st session – all agreed on wanting to do one, but discussion was held off until the ice need for Midget/Bantam and the National Bound Playdowns was concluded.
- Teams will once again only get 4 No Play Dates. These dates and your intentions on going to the State tournament must be submitted to the GSL ice scheduler by 10/5
- The next GSL meeting is September 12, 2012
 - GSL meetings will occur on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

USA Hockey Report: (Jennifer McMahon)

- Reminder to all that USA Hockey Registrations need to be completed prior to the first practice. The registration number should be entered into the Website as soon as possible.
- A link to the USA Hockey Registration website has been added to our website for easy access.
- The 2012-2013 edition of Cybersport has been released. I have loaded the software and we can start entering in rosters as soon as the Registration numbers are received.

Merchandise Report: (Brenda Labbe)

- The uniforms are in! (jerseys and socks) These will not be handed out until practices have started.
- The website is currently being updated with all of the new merchandise available this season. There will be pictures of the products with associated prices, and new this year we will be able to pay via credit card. We will also know whether there is current inventory available or whether items will need to be ordered.

New Business

- Amelia Park Golf Tournament was held, there were 10 – foursomes that played. It was a good time by all that attended.
- We have received an anonymous donation which has been designated to be used towards Breast Cancer Awareness. We will be looking to use the funds for someone that has been impacted by Breast Cancer in some way.
- We will be receiving a \$250 check from Prudential Retirement this year as a donation. Thank you to Jen McMahon for obtaining this for us.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.