

**Westfield Youth Hockey Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2012**

**Executive Board Members Present:**

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

**Appointed Board Members Present:**

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

Meeting began at approximately 6:35 p.m.

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

**President's Report: (Paul Labbe)**

- Thank you to Steve Jarvis and Jeff Koziol for several years of service and dedication to the WYHA Executive Board.
- Summer clinics at Amelia Park start at the end of May and run through July 12, 2012, the second session will start July 19 and run through August 30, 2012.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Amelia Park Ice Open will take place August 2, 2012 at The Ranch in Southwick.
- Rink improvements: replaced yellow portion of board, repaired door and boards, replaced compressor, painted and sealed all locker room bathrooms, painted lobby and vending area, party rooms will be tiled and carpet removed, painting and repairing bleacher area, fixed clock and repaired locker room door keys.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report: (Bob Jacques)**

- With the exception of one team, every team for the upcoming season has a coach in place. Paul is in the process of interviewing new coaches at this time.
- This weekend Bob will attend the Mass Hockey Meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

### **Ice Scheduler Report: (Todd Jensen)**

- In discussions with Amelia Park for schedule. Need about the same hours of ice, hoping not to have to go to another arena, may be inevitable. Goalie clinics will continue once a month. Chabot clinics will be cut back to 3 clinics this year. No ice will be purchased on Halloween this year.

### **Director of Finance Report: (Meg Bacon)**

- Steve Jarvis spoke first and reported on the following: First, want to say it has been a privilege working with this Board over the past three seasons. WYHA has a very professional Board that operates very much like a small business. I feel we have accomplished a lot over the past several seasons and WYHA is in great hands moving forward. I would also like to welcome Meg Bacon; she is a great addition to the Executive Board!
- We finished the season with \$116,000 in our operating account versus \$83,000 last season. The increase was driven by new jersey money received by members at registration, funds generated from the "Social" fundraiser, and increased membership. The cash balance will be reduced to a more normalized level in the summer after payment is sent out on our initial jersey order.
- 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. We will be working on the 2012 / 2013 budget over the summer. Second and final payments are expected to be close to first payment amounts.

### **Communications Report (Tim McMahon)**

- There is now a mobile app for our webpage for iPhone and Android uses. Go to the webpage to check this out.

### **GSL Report: (Tom Roskey)**

- The checking account has a balance of \$8,258.03.
- The Scholarship account has a balance of \$1,158.11.
- \$2000.00 was already approved to pay scholarships. 5 recipients will each be receiving \$400.00. Jim Matroni will send an email congratulating the recipients of the scholarships.
- The following was voted on and approved.
  - ❖ Dave Sanshagrín will take over the content portion of the Webmaster position.
  - ❖ Todd Jensen will work on the technical portion of the Webmaster position.
  - ❖ Jeff Brown will schedule the timekeepers.

- There was a discussion to allow coaches that had not complete the requirements last season to get in compliance by December 31 (or the USA Hockey deadline). The Mass Hockey rulebook Article 2, Section 2 states that any coach who didn't complete the coaching requirements in the inaugural season would not be considered in compliance the following season until the coaching requirements are fulfilled. Bantam U14, Midget U16 and U18 the coaching requirements need to be met by November 1st. For all other divisions the requirement is December 31st. The modules will be available August 1st. If you completed the modules and stay coaching the same age group you do not need to complete the module again.
- Coaching Clinics will be held at the following: Level 1 ~ September 30th in Falmouth, Level 1 ~ October 7th in Holyoke, Level 2 ~ at AIC no date yet, Level 2 ~ October 14<sup>th</sup> in Holyoke.
- A motion was made and unanimously accepted that the GSL would follow the rule stated in Article 2, Section 2 of the Mass Hockey Rules and Regulations.
- The referee's contract is up for renewal and historically there is not much negotiating. Justin Parzychowski will contact Mark Sampson to set up 2 meetings, one to go over what the organization is looking for and what the referees are looking for and then another one to make the contract.
- There were some rule/policy changes made at the Mass Hockey meeting. USA Hockey removed the U (under) from all the age groups to discourage players from playing up. Mass Hockey approved a rule/policy change that allows players other than Mite (U8) players to play up. There will be more discussion at the September Mass Hockey meeting. Some members felt stricter rules and regulations hindering the smaller organizations.
- State Tournaments- All 12 team tournaments, District 6 are holding a Squirt Tier 2 Small State Tournament March 15-17 at the Olympia.
- GSL is holding 2 tournaments at the Olympia both March 22-24. They will be a Squirt Tier 2 Large and a Bantam Tier 4. Using the t-shirt lady will make the tournaments very profitable.
- This year Dan Haggerty would like to put an ad in the Mass Hockey Annual Guide Book. A full page ad will be \$250.00 the ad is due before the month of July. A motion was made and accepted to place the ad. Dave Sanschagrín will make up an ad and email it to Katie Carzello to distribute to the organization for final approval. After some discussion it was decided that we would put all of the organizations in the league and the Champions from last season.
- ADM Committee will have an appointed person with each district. Anyone that has a person in mind should let the league know. Roger Grillo has agreed to teach the coaches in the league how to teach the players to check properly. Dan Haggerty will set up a league wide clinic for all the coaches PeeWee to Bantam. This will be in late August if available. The thought is that there has been a lot of poor teaching of this and if each organization pushes for this it should work.
- The treasurers from each organization are doing a good job making payments to each other. This will be done again this season.
- Scheduling - each organization present gave their ideas for what they will have for teams. Amherst will have 4 Mite, 3 Squirt (a/b/c), 2 PeeWee (a/b), 2 Bantam (a/b), Brattleboro had already passed their numbers in to Jim Chouinard, FCHA will have 1 Mite (b), 1 Squirt (b), 1 PeeWee (b), 1 Bantam (b), 1 Midget, Holy Name 4 Novice, 3 Mite (a/b/c), 5 Squirt (a/2b/2c), 3 PeeWee (a/2b), 2 Bantam (a/b), Ludlow 3 Mite, 2 Squirt (a/b), 1 PeeWee (a), Bantam (a), 1 Midget, Nonotuck 1 Mite, 1 Squirt (b), 1

PeeWee (b), Westfield 2 Novice, 5 Mite (a/b/3c), 3 Squirt (a/b/c), 3 PeeWee (a/2b), 2 Bantam (a/b), 1 Midget.

- Discussion regarding the evaluation process. Regardless of what happens with the evaluation process no one wants to add games to the season. Amherst felt last year's evals went well. Brattleboro, Ludlow and Westfield thought the process was run well with the only negative feedback being that it wasn't all at one rink. 2 teams actually moved up or down a division after the process last year. Holy Names suggested that we do no evaluation. The thought is the whole dynamic of a team changes when the kids who play football or soccer come back to a team in November. So you're never really going to get a good picture of a team during the evaluation period. A suggestion that we do a tournament style weekend with the A divisions playing one weekend and the B divisions playing another. We do evaluations for just teams that don't know where they are going to land. With no evaluations everyone would have to be honest about their team placements. If there is a b team dominating there may have to be some type of repercussions. Possibly have some type of roster approval. Another suggestion was that everyone schedules their own games and has a discussion meeting at the end to see where everyone should land. The more experienced organizations could help the newer organizations with placements. There was a motion made that we do not have evaluations. This was voted down with 6 in favor and 7 opposed. There was a motion made to follow the format from last year's evaluation round. This was unanimously accepted. Jim Matroni will come up with a rate for 4-30 minutes games with refs and let each organization know.
- State playdowns have historically been during February vacation from school. In order to attract more teams the suggestion was made to move the playdowns off of February vacation. This will allow teams to play their season earlier. Also some people have problems with taking time off from work during the week. A motion was made, voted on and unanimously accepted to recommend that District 6 move the playdowns to November 30 and December 1.
- Motion was made that the playoff format would stay the same. Only the top 4 teams will go to the playoffs. This was voted on and accepted unanimously.
- Motion was made to have the Regular Season end March 3rd and to have the championship Games March 9th and 10th. This was accepted with 1 opposing vote. This is in order to accommodate for state tournament play if needed. This will leave organizations with two extra weeks of ice.

#### **USA Hockey Report: (Jennifer McMahon)**

- As of April 4<sup>th</sup>, USA registration is open. LTS/LTP is free under the age of 6 (2006 and younger) Older LTS/LTP skaters will pay \$48.
- Final rosters are due 2 weeks into the start of the season.

#### **Merchandise Report: (Brenda Labbe)**

- New jerseys have been ordered.
- We will sell old merchandise at the first week of practice.

#### **New Business**

- Kevin Major Tournament will take place August 9 through the 12<sup>th</sup>. They would like to have a mite division this year.

- We will be receiving a \$500 check from Pitney Bowes this year as a donation. Thank you to Nathalie Hosmer for obtaining this for us.
- There will not be a July meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**