

Minutes of the regular meeting of CHC, February 27, 2007

CALL TO ORDER 7:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except: CT Northern Lights (3) CT Stars (4), Gr. Bridgeport (1), Greenwich Skating Club (4), Griffin (6), New Canaan (4), Northeastern YH (5), Northwestern CT (2), Ridgefield (2), Simsbury (2), Stamford (3), Wonderland Wizards (1) (number in parentheses = total absences including this evening).

Board Officers Present: President, Jim Lanza; Vice President, Mike Meakem, Secretary: Glenn Van Moffaert.

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Eligibility Chairperson (District I Commissioner), Kathy Ludwig; District IV Commissioner Glenn Van Moffaert; Tournament Chairperson (and Tier-1 Coordinator), Tony Ardito; Mite Coordinator, Joe Errico; Women's Hockey Coordinator, Joe Dymarczyk;

USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: Referee in Chief, Randy Zaritsky.

USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: Bob Crawford (NE District Dir)

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The January minutes were amended to correct an error in the Roll Call; CT Clippers were in attendance. The January minutes were approved, as amended without objection.

REPORTS

Vice President (Mike Meakem)

Mike provided information related to the Supplemental Tournaments acknowledging the contributions of Brian Oatway. Mike emphasized that communication has been a central theme this year, and toward that end, the CHC League Athletics website (<http://www.chchockey.org>) will become a primary source for communication. The USAH sponsored site (<http://www.usahockey.com>) will always be available as well.

Secretary (Glenn Van Moffaert)

Attendance Glenn provided information regarding the status of member programs in accordance with the Bylaws respecting mandatory attendance. Under the Bylaws, member programs must be represented in at least 75% of all regularly scheduled meetings. There are 11 regular monthly meetings, therefore the fourth absence triggers the consequence of Loss of Good Standing as well as assessing a \$50 fee that will be added to such program's annual registration costs.

As of today, these three programs are NOT IN GOOD STANDING:

Griffin; Northeast YH; and Salisbury

As of today, these six programs have three (3) recorded absences:

CT Stars; CT Wolves; Greenwich Skating Club; Kent; New Canaan; and Western.

A discussion followed regarding the issue of attendance and significance of Good Standing. The BOD determined that the monetary fine and loss of certain privileges (such as voting rights) as stated in the Bylaws is a sufficient mechanism to encourage participation.

Elections Pursuant to the Bylaws, the Board Officer positions of Vice President and Secretary expire at the next Annual Meeting (April 2007). Jim Lanza will soon be appointing a Nominating Committee to solicit nominations of candidates for election to these Officer

positions. The election shall take place at the 2007 Annual Meeting and nominations from the floor will also be accepted at that time.

Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Secretary (email is preferred: District_IV@yahoo.com) by CHC member programs at least seven (7) days prior to the March meeting. (deadline = March 20, 2007). The Secretary shall submit all proposals to the Standing Rules Committee, which is composed of the Eligibility Chairperson, State Registrar and Secretary for review, and proposed amendments shall be discussed at the March Meeting, with voting held at the Annual Meeting in April. Given the time constraints, please submit any proposed amendments to Glenn as far in advance of March 20 as practicable.

President (Jim Lanza)

Jim stressed that member programs should instill within their ranks that the tournament season is for the kids benefit, and not for the parents' vicarious glory. The core values of USAH youth hockey remain: Sportsmanship; Respect for the Individual; Integrity; Enjoyment; Loyalty; Teamwork; and pursuit of Excellence. However excellence does not mean win at all costs.

Treasurer (Jim reporting)

Jim presented the Treasurer's report, and announced that no formal report will be issued until the new Treasurer has determined the best method of presenting the record of accounts to the BOD. However, all BOD members are welcome to view the accounts, and Jim has the latest information available this evening.

THE BALANCE OF TOURNAMENT FEES WAS DUE TODAY. Several programs need to speak to Jim in order to reconcile their outstanding obligation.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

Kathy reported that District-1 is quiet. Kathy also stressed that GM / MATCH penalties apply even though the season "ended" Feb. 4 (for ranking purposes). If a player is serving a GM / Match suspension, then it is the next **regularly** scheduled game that the player/coach must sit out. If your season has ended, your next *regular* game is at States, therefore that player/coach sits out the requisite number of State tournament game.

Kathy also cautioned about the return of HS players to BA teams. CHC no longer has a prohibition on the return of HS players. However, CIAC does have its own rules governing eligibility, and affected players should be advised to seek a determination from CIAC and not rely on CHC rule making regarding their continued eligibility for high school. Eligibility within CIAC is a fact-specific inquiry, and CHC has no jurisdiction or authority to pronounce a player clear of CIAC rules.

District-4: Glenn reported that one GM and one Match penalty were served and resolved.

Registrar (Patty Garcia)

Patty reported that the books for Regionals are almost complete. Patty also thanked those (especially Karl) who helped her tote around trophies and similar objects.

Womens' hockey (Joe Dymarczyk)

Joe highlighted that the girls' NE Showcase tryout (Girls born in CY 1995 and 1996) is scheduled on March 5, 2007, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at Ingalls Rink. See website for sign-up and details.

The Girls 93/94 Festival Team has been chosen. See the website for roster information. For the Regionals, **IF** you are assigned to a particular hotel, then PLEASE ONLY USE THE ASSIGNED HOTEL.

Referee in Chief (Randy Zaritsky)

Randy asked that coaches refrain from calling him on his cell phone while they are coaching from the bench or immediately after the game in the locker room to contest a call.

For the tournaments, there are approximately 350 referee assignments per week! As you can imagine, the referees are stretched thin, but nonetheless continue to put forth their best effort so that the games can be played.

Candidates are being screened for the Burlington, VT camps/festival. An instructor's camp is being held at Lake Placid this coming May; the seminar list is now being compiled.

Tournament Committee (Tony Ardito)

Tournament Results Tony ran through the Tournaments that were recently concluded; results and schedules can be found on the web:

http://www.usahockey.com/chchockey/main_site/main/state_tourname/ or

<http://www.chchockey.org/Page.asp?id=21442&snid=34904856&org=CHCHOCKEY.ORG>

Team Connecticut

Tony reported that selections are being finalized. Jim Lanza emphasized that member organizations must get their paperwork in on time. There is a huge difference planning for 70 or 100 or as many as 120 kids. Next year there will be strict enforcement to meet the deadlines.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) TRYOUTS. Jim Lanza raised the issue that with the establishment of Tier-1 hockey, there needs to be coordination and cooperation not only among the T1 teams, but also with the T2 programs with respect to the timing of tryouts. It is imperative that T2 conduct their tryouts after T1 in order for players who don't make a T1 squad to have a fair opportunity to compete for slots in T2. Tier-1 programs suggested that there may be as many as 300 T1 players available to T2 teams after T1 tryouts.

Discussion was made and one point of information was that Mid-Fairfield/Greenwich is holding their T1 tryouts in early May, whereas the Wolves are conducting their tryouts on April 12. However, some programs, notably Central, have contractual obligations which may prevent them from moving their tryouts to a date in early May. The programs will attempt to align themselves in the future, but for this spring, Central will seek to move their tryouts to April 13 or later.

Several competing interests are raised with the timing of tryouts – Spring versus Fall. One is to provide a fair opportunity for those players that do not make a T1 squad. Another is that among T2 competitors, CHC has an interest to maintain a level playing field and drive for

parity among the member organizations. As a reminder, although T1 programs cannot have T2 squads, the exception is that a T1 program may have a SQ-Mn team competing at T2.

In order to accommodate the interests of all programs, a consensus was reached that T1 would conduct their tryouts during a two-week period commencing forty-eight (48) hours after Nationals have ended. Tier-2 programs can begin their tryouts no earlier than the third week of April. In accordance with the procedure for making changes to Rules and Policies, such changes are to be proposed at least ten (10) days prior to any regularly scheduled CHC Board of Directors meeting. Since this consensus results in a change to Policy, a formal vote on this issue will be made at next month's meeting.

(2) RECRUITING. Recruiting continues to be a cause for concern. Some examples of improper behavior include having T1 coaches "cold-calling" T2 players or arriving in the rink during tournaments to promote T1 hockey. While the promotion of T1 hockey is laudable, common sense and decorum need to be applied. Discussion was made to review the policies regarding recruiting in light of the new Tier structure. Since it is not known to what extent players or coaches will migrate between T1 and T2, or within T2 until next season, the issue of redefining recruiting was tabled until such time as more data on suspicious player and/or coach movement is collected.

(3) LEVEL-4 COACHING. Jim Lanza inquired what interest there is among the membership for Level-4 coaching certification, and it was estimated that about 40 coaches would be interested in a L4 Coaching Clinic.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn (seconded) passed by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT MEETING:

March 27, 2007
7:30pm
Italian American Club
35 Chase Road, West Haven.

Reminder: Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be made in writing and submitted to the Secretary no later than March 20, 2007. (e-mail is preferred: District_IV@Yahoo.com). Please submit amendments as soon as practicable.

Proposed amendments to the Rules and Policies can be made at any time during the year, but must be in writing and submitted to the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting (=March 17, 2007 -- Happy St. Patrick's Day!) Again, e-mail is preferred: District_IV@yahoo.com.

When making a proposed amendment, please make reference to the applicable Article/Section/Paragraph proposed to be changed. It is also helpful to have comments explaining the reason for the proposed change.

**The Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Policies may be found at:
http://www.usahockey.com/chchockey/main_site/main/by_laws// OR**

<http://www.chchockey.org/Documents.asp?snid=34913946&org=chchockey.org>