

Minutes of the President's Meeting of CHC Board of Directors; August 28, 2007

CALL TO ORDER 7:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except (number in parentheses indicate absences): CT. Clippers (1)
The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes (Attachment-1).

Board Officers Present: President, Mike Meakem; Secretary: Glenn Van Moffaert; Treasurer, Jason Pniewski.

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Eligibility Chairperson (District I Commissioner), Kathy Ludwig; District-III Commissioner, Barry Zalcman; District-IV Commissioner Glenn Van Moffaert; Tournament Chairperson, Brian Oatway; Mite Coordinator and Team-CT, Jim Lanza.

USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Referee-in-Chief, Randy Zaritsky

USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: NE District Director, Jim Lanza

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The June minutes were approved without objection.

GUESTS

Hartford Wolfpack and Bridgeport Sound Tigers

Both organizations made a brief presentation of the types of programs and events that are available to support and promote youth hockey. These things include various fund raising activities as well as use the ice surface for games and appearances by players at practices. Handouts were distributed. Please see each organizations websites for full details (www.hartfordwolfpack.com www.soundtigers.com -)

REPORTS

President (Mike Meakem)

Mike opened by welcoming everyone to the "Presidents' meeting" and set out that as evidenced by the attendance this evening, the CHC remains a healthy organization and maintains its commitment to its objective to promote and develop the game of hockey in Connecticut.

Volunteer positions. The CHC relies on volunteers to perform its functions, and to that end several open positions remain vacant and it is important that these positions are filled:

District II Commissioner Mike appointed Jason Pniewski, which received no objection from the BOD.

Tournament Directors: Except for the Mite level, all positions need to be filled. All interested persons should contact Brian Oatway.

Vice President: An election for the Office of Vice President will be held in September. Names of nominees are being accepted by the Nominating Committee (Bob McCoy, Brian Oatway and Tom Macken). Karl Zunkuft declared that he is running for office.

Grow the Game Initiative. An emphasis throughout all USA-H is the Grow the Game Initiative. There is a need to market to the youngest age levels. The NE District is taking action by convening a committee, and person to represent CT is being sought. If you are interested contact Mike or Jim Lanza (the NE District Director).

Regional Tournaments. Tournament host site selections have been made, with PW- Tier1 and Girls (U16, U19) held in Connecticut on the weekend of March 7. It is imperative that each member program understand their commitment to any of the Sectional/Regional tournaments. If your team qualifies to play, you must continue your representation of the CHC and compete in all sanctioned games (please note that at the MD-level, Clippers/Wolves Tournament games count toward standings). Also, please remember that your lodging must be made at the designated hotel(s).

Other news. Please remember that insurance through USA-H is effective only if you are playing against a USA-H team or in a USA-H sanctioned event. Some teams are not members of CHC but still are registered with USA-H; Patty Garcia can provide you guidance whether a particular team is in fact a member of USA-H.

There are 11 full season Midget teams throughout the State! Children who are interested in playing, will likely find opportunity with one of these teams.

Vice President (vacant)

Treasurer (Jason Pniewski)

The transition from Jim Lanza to Jason is complete.

Roster Deposits. Roster deposits that were not returned to member programs at the end of last season will be rolled over for the current season, subject to any fines that may have been levied on a program but not paid.

Tournament Fees. Tournament fees will be established once the negotiations for ice have been completed. Fifty percent (50%) of the Tournament fee is due at the October Meeting, with the balance paid at the January Meeting.

Secretary (Glenn Van Moffaert)

Attendance. Attendance at CHC Meetings is critical to maintaining a healthy organization. Please sign-in using the attendance sheet, as this is the method to verify your program's attendance. FOUR ABSENCES result in loss of Good Standing. From the 2006-2007 season, eight programs had not met the attendance requirement and this resulted in those programs not being able to enjoy the full rights of membership in CHC such as the ability to make motions or vote on matters, as well as being subject to a \$50 fine. The current attendance log is attached to each of the meeting minutes, and is also available on the CHC website.

Policies and Rules There are two sets of governing documents used by the CHC: (i) the Constitution and Bylaws; and (ii) the Policies and Rules. Each of these may be changed according to the procedures set forth in the respective document, and each is restated (as amended) and published onto the CHC website each season. With respect to the Policies and Rules, at the June BOD Meeting there was approved a new tier structure for Boys Tier 2-3-4, with the guidelines and policies to be drawn up and codified at the Presidents' Meeting. The Tier 2/3/4 guidelines and policies were drafted by an interim Tournament Committee and sent to all member programs in an e-mail from Mike Meakem dated July 18, 2007. In that e-mail the procedures for declaring the teams into Tiers and the consequences of breaking the commitment to participate in the declared Tier was spelled out. Programs complied with the deadlines established in the guidelines, and some made timely changes to their declared Tiered status.

A motion (seconded) to accept the guidelines and policies regarding Tier 2/3/4 was made and discussion followed. One point of discussion was the enforcement provisions, where it was

emphasized that there is an obligation for teams to compete in their declared Tier. In further discussion it was pointed out that the September 15 deadline to declare teams into Tier 4, was not manageable for some programs who may not have had a full opportunity to conduct tryouts, or determine what effect player movement to high school teams would have to BA-teams. Other discussion highlighted that with respect to Tier-4 teams, the penalty as proposed is too severe a consequence to the Tier 2/3 teams, however it was agreed that T2-3 penalty was appropriate to preserve the integrity of the Tiered system.

In light of the discussion two motions to amend to the guidelines were offered:

- (i) a motion (seconded) to change the Tier-4 deadline from September 15th to October 1st. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands
- (ii) a motion (seconded) to amend the enforcement provisions whereby T2/T3 enforcement and penalty would remain substantially as first proposed, but for Tier-4 a monetary penalty would be assessed. With respect to Tier-4, should a team withdraw from further competing in the Tier, then the member Program would be subject to a fine equal to the tournament fee, provided however, that if prior to December 1, a BA Tier-4 team is disbanded due to excessive player movement to High School, then such penalty is not assessed as a result of that BA-team's withdrawal. The motion passed by a majority vote of a show of hands.

A vote was taken on original motion to accept the guidelines and policies regarding Tier 2/3/4, as amended. The motion passed by a show of hands with one vote not in favor.

The amended section of the T2/3/4 policy and guidelines is shown below:

“Breaking Tier Declaration Commitments

Deciding which Tier to declare where a team will play is a difficult task, especially when it is necessary to make the declaration before the start of the season. Nonetheless, these decisions need to be made so that not only can other member Programs begin scheduling games (just like in past seasons when schedules were built based upon the level of play you estimated your team would play at for the upcoming season), but also so that the tournament committee can begin contracting for year end tournament ice. If teams were allowed to simply back out of their Tier declaration commitments at any time, the chaos created from these decisions would have a significant cost to all other Programs in their Tier, as well as the cost to CHC for its contractual obligations for end of season ice. So it is in this regard that the enforcement rules relating to Tier 2, 3 and 4 were written: to be a deterrent to any team or program that may attempt to back out of their Tier declaration, or any related season's game and/or the end of season tournament commitments after the deadline for making changes. The deadline for movement from one Tier to another is as follows: (A) from Tier 2 to another Tier --- July 15th; (B) from Tier 3 to another Tier --- July 19th. The deadline for declaring teams into Tier-4 is October 1.

Penalties for failure to meet Tier Commitment

A. Tier-2 and Tier-3 declared teams

Should any team from a member Program fail to meet its obligations for Game Requirements or State Tournaments in their respective division, as set forth above, the following penalties shall apply:

1. DISQUALIFICATION OF THE OFFENDING TEAM AND ALL OTHER TIER 2 AND TIER 3 TEAMS OF THE SUBJECT MEMBER PROGRAM FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT YEAR STATE TOURNAMENT. For the avoidance of doubt, and by example only, if a PeeWee Tier-3 team does not meet its

obligations to compete in Designated Games against teams in their Division, then ALL TIER 2 AND TIER 3 TEAMS OF THAT MEMBER PROGRAM (includes PW Tier-2, Squirt Tier-2 & Tier3; and Bantam Tier-2 & Tier-3) will be disqualified from participating in the current year State Tournament; and

2. Upon notice from CHC, all monies due and payable to CHC are accelerated for immediate payment in full, and the subject member Program forfeits any right of refund.

B. Tier 4 declared teams

Should any team from a member Program withdraw from Tier-4 or materially fail to meet its obligations, then a fine equal to the Tournament fee shall be levied upon the member Program. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if prior to December 1, a Tier-4 Bantam team withdraws from competition solely due to its being disbanded as a result of excessive player movement to High School, then no fine shall be levied against a member Program for said Bantam team's withdrawal from Tier-4.

Any fine levied against a member Program under this paragraph B is imposed on a one-time basis (i.e. fines are NOT cumulative for each team that fails to meet its obligations) for the current season, and is in addition to and not in lieu of any fees and monies otherwise due and payable to CHC. Upon notice from CHC, all amounts due and payable to CHC are accelerated for immediate payment in full, and the subject member Program forfeits any right of refund.

Restatement of Policies and Rules. The Policies and Rules will be restated and published to the website for the September Meeting.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

Releases. All releases are being published to the CHC LgAth web site. Notices have been sent to Programs that do not have proper releases. PLEASE NOTE: There are severe consequences for using a player that has not been properly released. There are ways to obtain a timely release from the departing Program. Furthermore, if you know of a player removed from your Program that is playing with another Program but has NOT sought or obtained a release, call Kathy to help resolve the situation.

Rosters. Many rosters are complete. You must have your roster authenticated by Patty in order for any games to count. If you have any **Canadian citizen** Midget players, please contact Kathy or Patty as special rules apply to these players.

Coach Screening. Coach screening is a “must do” activity that is made each year. For a returning coach that has already undergone an initial screening, all that is necessary is for that coach to sign an authorization to screen form.

Registrar (Patty Garcia)

Rosters. Rosters are flowing in! PLEASE SEND THE ORIGINAL SIGNED ROSTER together with any necessary copies to Patty. PLEASE FOLLOW

INSTRUCTIONS – NO WRITE-INS!! Twenty (20) players is the maximum number that can be added to a roster. If a Bantam team is disbanded because of defections to high school, NOTIFY PATTY!

Use of Alternates / Roster Management

Alternates are a good way to manage player movement on your rosters, HOWEVER SPECIAL RULES APPLY to the use of Alternates, or other type of player movement. Some rules to consider are:

- (i) a MAXIMUM of 5-players can be designated as Alternates on a roster, and Alternates count toward the 20 maximum number of players that can appear on a roster.
- (ii) An Alternate becomes a PERMANENT player on the squad which (s)he is designated as an Alternate upon the 10th game which (s)he plays as an Alternate.
- (iii) Up to the seventh game, you can move a player DOWN to another team within an age division (Squirt A → Squirt B) without having designated such player as an Alternate. On the seventh game, that player cannot be moved down.
- (iv) You can have a younger player rostered in an older division (SQ player on a PW team). HOWEVER, this practice is STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. Once a player is rostered in an older division, that player cannot move into the younger division. It is strongly suggested that if you have this circumstance, that you obtain a SPECIAL WAIVER AND RELEASE signed by the parents. Kathy has a sample of such special waiver form.
- (v) Under no circumstance can a older player be rostered onto a younger division (SQ player → MT-team). A roster must be designated at the age of the eldest player.

Other Items. Patty is handling the request for special patches (Player Maker, Hat Rick and Goalie). The MONGOOSE are NOT affiliated with USA-H. If you planning a tournament, you must register that tournament through Patty (USA-H)

Girls (Mike Meakem reporting for Joe Dymarczyk)

Joe is working with Harley Pretty to have a special section for girls on the web site. All teams must abide by the “14 and 10” rule (14 team games to qualify; 10 games each player). Tier-2 teams must declare by the October Meeting.

Coaching Director (Mike Meakem reporting for Mike Powers)

The clinics for L1/L2 on Sept 8 and 9 are full. Level 3 (Sept. 15) has 10 open spots. The following sessions have large capacity (shown in parentheses): Level 1, Sept. 29 (46); Level 2, Dec. 15 (43); Level 3, Dec. 16 (51; See website for details.

Referee in Chief (Randy Zaritsky)

Schedules for all clinics can be found on the website WWW.NEDISTRICT.ORG; officials must attend a recertification seminar each season. Randy handed out a sheet showing all seminars.

It is a Rule Change Year...sticks may now have up to ¾” curvature. Like last year, there will be strict enforcement of the “stick handling” penalties (hooking, slashing, tripping, etc).

Officials will begin a pilot program to post Game misconduct and Match penalties for through the CHC website.

Tournament Committee (Brian Oatway)

SCORE SHEETS are available!

URGENT NEED FOR TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE DIRECTORS ---

If interested, see Brian.

Schedules. Tournament dates for Tiered hockey have been determined, but SITES are tba. Generally for T1, -2, -3 it is the last w/e of February, and the first w/e of March. For T-4, first and second weekend of March. A handout was distributed relating to Supplemental tournament (T-4) guidelines. All Tier-2, -3 scheduling (Designated Games) must be finished and entered into the website by Aug. 31!

Posting Results. Either the home or away team can post results of the games, but **game sheets must be delivered to the Tournament Committee within 5 days of the event.** Posting to web does not relieve you of the need to mail in your scoresheet.

T-1 (Midget): score sheets go to Jim Lanza. MD-Tournament will have four teams, determined by W/L record.

Team –CT (Jim Lanza)

Tryouts for 15/16/17 year olds (boys) will be in November. Tryouts for 12/13/14 year olds is in February. Pre-registration is required in order to plan for effective tryouts.

New England District (Jim Lanza)

The District meeting is on Sept. 29. Growing the Game initiative is a high priority, with cost containment as a prime focus point. The Mite numbers are dwindling, and so effort must be made to make the sport attractive, from a cost perspective. Using cross-ice at the Mite level is one way to help contain costs.

Web Site

A girls section is being designed. Officials are piloting a use to enter GM/Match penalties. Team CT registration should be available (including payment) through the website. Please check on the accuracy for the directions to the rinks.

NEW BUSINESS (none)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

NEXT MEETING:

September 25, 2007
7:30pm
Italian American Club
35 Chase Road, West Haven.

/Attachment #1 August minutes
Attendance Log

Program	Total Absences	April 2007	May	June	August Presidents' Meeting
Avon	0				
Central	0				
CT Clippers	1				X
CT Northern Lights	1			X	
CT Polar Bears	0				
CT Stars	1			X	
CT Wolves	0				
Darien	1		X		
East Haven	1		X		
ECHO	1		X		
Enfield	1			X	
Gr. Bridgeport	0				
Gr. New Haven	0				
Greenwich Blues	1			X	
Greenwich Skate	1	X			
Griffin	3	X	X	X	
Hamden	0				
Kent	3	X	X	X	
Middlesex	1			X	
Mid-Fairfield	0				
New Canaan	2	X	X		
Northeastern	0				
Northwestern	0				
Pawling	0				
Ridgefield	2	X	X		
Salisbury	3	X	X	X	
Simsbury	3	X	X	X	
South Windsor	1	X			
Southeastern	0				
Southern	1		X		
Stamford	1		X		
Wallingford	2		X	X	
Watertown	1			X	
West Hartford	0				
West Haven	0				
Western	1	X			
Wonderland Wizards	2	X	X		
Yale	1			X	
Members Present (38)	28		25	26	37
LOSS OF STANDING	0		0	0	0
Good Standing	38		38	38	38