

Minutes of the regular meeting of CHC Board of Directors, November 27, 2007

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except (number in parentheses indicate absences including this evening): CT Stars (2). The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes.

Correction to the October minutes: Greenwich Blues were present but noted as absent; their attendance is corrected in the attached attendance log.

**The following member Programs are hereby notified that they have three (4) recorded absences, and as a result have lost their Good Standing:
Salisbury**

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

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Eligibility Chairperson (District I Commissioner), Kathy Ludwig; District-II Commissioner, Jason Pniewski; District-IV Commissioner Glenn Van Moffaert; Tournament Chairperson, Brian Oatway; PeeWee Coordinator, Bruce Buckholz; Midget Coordinator, Amy Landino; Women's Coordinator, Joe Dymarczyk

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

USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: none

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The September and October minutes were not available at this time. Glenn will collect the minutes from Kathy Ludwig, and send to the BOD within 10 days. With Christmas upcoming, the "short month" of November will have its minutes distributed prior to the December 18 meeting.

ELECTION OF TREASURER

Mike Federico had announced his candidacy for the open position of Treasurer, having resulted from Jason Pniweski's accession to the office of Vice President. Glenn opened the floor for other nominations; none being raised, a vote was put to the BOD who, by a show of hands without objection, elected Mr. Federico to the position of Treasurer.

REPORTS

President (Mike Meakem)

Mike mentioned that he attended an orientation session of USA-H in Colorado.

Congratulations to Tier-1 Mid-Fairfield Midget Minor and Midget Major for becoming champions of the New England District tournament held earlier in the month. They move on to the USA-H Nationals in early April – GOOD LUCK!!

"Story Time"...Mike recounted stories of bad behavior and the penalties/sanctions that come from not abiding by the rules. Examples of hockey version of the Darwin awards include:

- A coach of a Md-Major team was debarred for 1year when he played a non-rostered player.
- A coach was permanently banned when he grabbed a child by the hair.

- A squirt coach had verbally accosted a referee (this is abuse of an official under Rule 601), but not content with that, the coach then physically assaulted the ref, resulting in a permanent ban.

It cannot be overstressed that these behaviors WILL NOT be tolerated. Everyone must make an effort to eliminate this seemingly pervasive attitude, and instead instill a culture that focuses on the development of children as hockey players, with an appreciation for the game.

Volunteerism – it is the backbone of our organization. While many of these positions remain thankless jobs, it is not acceptable that some volunteers are not treated with respect.

Vice President (Jason Pniewski)

Nothing significant to report.

Treasurer (Jason Pniewski)

Jason prepared a handout with the CHC finances. What appears to be cash heavy now will quickly be corrected once the State Tournaments begin.

Mike Meakem commented that a Finance Committee is sought to be convened. If anyone is interested in participating, please see Mike Meakem, or Mike Federico.

RULE CHANGE DISCUSSION – “Neckguard Rule”

The so-called neckguard rule is a CHC requirement. There was discussion regarding whether the neckguard rule should be abolished, in light of the fact that USA-H does not stipulate this requirement. Some questioned whether there was any objective evidence to consider whether a neckguard provides any meaningful benefit. Others felt that while there may not be studies on the issue, it seems common-sense that an inexpensive and simple device such as a neckguard can't compromise safety, and may have a benefit. Others objected to a somewhat arbitrary enforcement of the rules by the refs. Randy Zaritsky aid that it is a difficult rule to enforce, since refs aren't readily able to examine whether a device has the proper labeling to qualify as a neckguard. Others spoke on the issue, and commented on both sides of the debate.

After closing debate a motion was made (seconded) to call the question, whether the neckguard rule should be abolished: 1Yea, all others NAY. The motion failed and the neckguard rule remains in place.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

Effect of High School Kathy cautioned that High School tryouts are now beginning. While the CHC does not prevent a HS child from playing on a CIAC team (there is a prohibition against playing on two CHC-based teams), the CIAC has VERY STRICT regulations, and absolutely prohibits dual play while the team is “in season” (meaning Dec 12 through the day of the final game for that team, and in any event no later than Feb. 28). Many private schools have a liberal policy like CHC. The CIAC website has relevant information (<http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/eligrules070107.pdf>) REMEMBER – IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO DECIDE THE CIAC ELIGIBILITY OF A PLAYER UNDER THEIR RULES, JUST AS CIAC CANNOT DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY UNDER CHC RULES.

Also, please note that Girls HS Ice Hockey is not a recognized CIAC varsity sport. However, a girl playing on a boys CIAC squad is subject to the CIAC restrictions.

District I Echoing Mike Meakem's earlier comments, coaches' behavior is deplorable. Rest assured that the CHC will send a strong message to coaches that face disciplinary action.

District II Match penalties are being reported and acted upon. One resulted in a ref being hospitalized; another for an intent-to-injure resulting from butt-ending

District III (reporting for Barry) two match penalties for kicking an opponent

District-IV: the penalty reporting procedures are resulting in more timely reports of infractions, and is resulting in more timely application of enforcements.

Registrar (Patty Garcia)

Patty reports that all is looking good! Kathy Ludwig also wanted the reps to remind their registrars that coaching certification updates are to be made through CyberSport. If there are any questions regarding this process call or email Patty first.

Girls (Joe Dymarczyk)

Joe reported on the continuing success of the girls' program, and for the 94/95 age group tryouts are held at Yale on Jan 7; REGISTRATION IS ON-LINE ONLY – NO WALKINS!

Score sheets for games do not need to be mailed to Joe. State Tournament ice (T1/T2 u16) will be scheduled around a home/home series; scheduling for others is being worked on.

Coaching Director (Mike Powers)

(Mike Meakem reporting for Mike Powers.) Clinics are posted to the website. L2 is FULL. L3 has open slots (Dec 16) . Out-of State venues have openings: L1: NY[12/1], ME and VT [12/9]; L2 RI [12/9]

Referee in Chief (Randy Zaritsky)

Seminars/clinics for this season are finished. All refs must have the new crest on their jersey by Dec. 1.

With respect to the neckguard rule, please understand that enforcement is difficult: some players wear collars, or have equipment which integrates an approved neckguard. Also, some hockey organizations outside of CHC are not subject to the rule. So if you play against such a team, then the CHC team is required to wear the neckguard, but the opponent does NOT need to don that piece of equipment. The best solution to enforce the rule is for the COACH and local ORGANIZATION to adhere to a strict compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Tiered hockey A question was raised regarding the status of the "Ranger cups". Jim Lanza answered that a scheduling alliance is in the works to begin next season.

B. Team CT Rosters for 91/92/93 are posted. The tryout mechanism was very much improved from last year. Registration for 94/95.96 is done online. On-line registration, and no walk-ins! A question was raised whether there is any demographic data on the make up of the teams. Jim responded that neither registration data nor roster data is being analyzed, but may compile such data.

C. Grow the Game Ken Dixon is on point for this initiative. It is a tough assignment here in CT as well as across the USA. One goal is to get participation from late-age (12 and 13 y.o) first timers. Related events to this initiative are in February the *Hockey Across America* is launched through USA-H. Also, looking to leverage the good relations with Val Belmonte and Quinnipiac University

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn (seconded) passed by unanimous voice vote. [8:50pm]

NEXT MEETING:

“HOLIDAY MEETING”

December 18, 2007

7:30pm

Italian American Club

35 Chase Road, West Haven.

/Attachment #1 to November 2007 minutes

Attendance Log

Program	Total Absences	April 2007	May	June	August Presidents' Meeting	September	October	November
Avon	0							
Central	0							
CT Clippers	1				x			
CT Northern Lights	1			x				
CT Polar Bears	0							
CT Stars	2			x				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	4	x	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	1					x		
West Haven	1					x		
Western	1	x						
Wonderland Wizards	2	x	x					
Yale	1			x				
Members Present (38)		28	25	26	37	35	38	37