

Minutes of the regular meeting of CHC Board of Directors, March 25, 2008

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except (number in parentheses indicate absences including this evening): CT Stars (3); CT Wolves (1); Enfield (2); Grn. Skating Club (2); Hamden (1); Northeastern (2); Northwestern (1); Ridgefield (3); Salisbury (8); Simsbury (4); South Windsor (2); Western (2). The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes.

Simsbury is hereby notified that they have four (4) recorded absences in the CHC year, and as a result have lost their Good Standing, which carries over into the next CHC year (April 2008 through March 2009). Further, Salisbury, with eight (8) absences recorded in the 2007-08 CHC year, also has its loss of Good Standing carryover into the next CHC year.

Griffin has regained its status of Good Standing.

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

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; District-II: Jason Pniewski; District-III, Barry Zalzman; District-IV, Glenn Van Moffaert; Tournament Committee Chairperson, Brian Otway; Tier-1 Director, Jim Lanza; Supplemental Director, Squirt Coordinator Erik Sunquist; Girls' Hockey, Joe Dymarczyk.

USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: Referee In Chief: Randy Zaritsky

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

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The February minutes were accepted.

REPORTS

President (Mike Meakem)

During the tournaments, there were many exceptions and special considerations requested to the rules governing coaches' credentialing. While most, if not all, were granted, be advised that these special requests count against your organization's "goodwill" account.

Volunteerism: the CHC, and each member Program relies on volunteers to carry out their mission. However, too few persons are shouldering an increasingly heavy burden. Especially at season's end, more volunteers are needed. Tournaments were scheduled at the request of member programs and all who wanted to, could participate. However, it should not be necessary that only a few dedicated volunteers made effort to ensure that the Tournaments ran smoothly. Some were forced to take vacation time from work as well as manage extended absences from their homes. This situation must be avoided next season.

Tournaments were a huge success! Special thanks and kudos to all who helped out, especially Brian Otway, other division volunteers and the Referees, without whose help the tournaments would not have run so smoothly! CT is also very well represented at the Nationals with its T1/T2 PeeWee and BA.

A reminder from last month about tryouts: with respect to binding commitments and money deposits, a player who accepted a position with a T2/T3/T4 program can opt-out and move to a T-1 program without penalty. The affected T2/T3/T4 program must waive the binding commitment and refund any program fee monies that it collected (other than a reasonable non-refundable tryout fee, if any) to the player, provided that the player notify the T2/T3/T4 program no later than five (5) days after the last of the Tier-1 tryouts.

With respect to the continuation of debate and vote on the T-1 rule change, Mike emphasized that he has “no dog in the fight”, and his interest is only to ensure fairness and equity throughout all of CHC.

Vice President (Jason Pniewski)

No report

Treasurer (Mike Federico)

Mike gave a handout on the current balance sheet. Good progress is being made getting things in order. Timely payment of bills is a high priority. Another good note, approximately \$12,000 was collected in commissions from apparel sales during the tournaments. However, there is no historic data to compare.

Mike Meakem stated that a change in fees is being given serious consideration to encourage on-line registration; one thought is to charge three times the amount for manual registration.

Grow the Game: In Ken Dixon’s absence, Mike Meakem reports that although a survey was sent out to the membership, only 11 of 38 programs have responded to it. Please participate, as this feedback is necessary to help determine the next best steps on this important initiative.

A standardized order form is being developed for the x-ice divider ordering. A question was raised whether there is a cut-off date for ordering dividers, and taking advantage of the CHC stipend. Mike Meakem said that while there is no official cutoff date, the CHC BOD reserves the right to change this in the future. Mike further emphasized that discounts apply only to the invoiced amounts, and that since each program is a 501(c)(3), the purchase should be made tax exempt.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

Coaching credentialing and certification was a fiasco for some individuals at year-end. Some coaches were actually current in their appropriate level, but had lost their card or otherwise did not have their properly record current in the USA-H database. The lag time that it takes for USA-H to post corrections onto its website can be very long. The best recommendations is to remember to make a photocopy of your current coaching card in the event that you lose it, or USA-H has errors.

With the District Commissioners, it was relatively quiet, the commissioners reporting as follows:

District Commissioner Reports

<u>District I</u>	No match penalties to report
<u>District II</u>	one Match penalty resulting from a kicking incident.

District III a second match penalty to the same player in the current season! Also, Barry (as well as the other commissioners) is monitoring the number of occurrences that coaches get Game misconducts. Depending on the factual situation, the Elig. Committee may impose additional sanctions/carryover into next season.

District-IV: one match penalty has expired.

Registrar (Patty Garcia)

Patty reported that except for emergency maneuvers to enable coaches to participate in the tournaments, things are calm. Thirty-four (34) books were credentialed this year...special award to E. Haven, and three others, whose book was perfect!

Girls (Joe Dymarczyk/Jacqueline DiNuccio)

For the Festival, CT girls represented about 40%.

T-1 tryout dates have only been received from 3 organizations ---- give Joe the information ASAP. Money commitment is due no later than May 1.

Coaching Director (Mike Powers)

Mike Meakem reported that Mike Powers will continue in this role for next season.

Referee in Chief (Randy Zaritsky)

Much gratitude for the referee associations that were able to cover all the Sate Tournament games!

Despite the fact that there is an active link on the website, you cannot register for next season at this time: wait until August.

Tournaments (Brian Oatway)

Special thank you to the Gr. Bdg staff who manned the Shelton rinks' clock during the Easter w/e games. The Tournaments are over, and the feedback has been very good, although some complaints were received that there wasn't enough of an "event" atmosphere. Perhaps a program/roster of players can be accommodated for next year, but need ideas how to timely prepare them, and cover the cost, etc.

Art reported that the regional/balance format of the Supplemental Tournaments worked well, despite the fact that some coaches were disqualified for lack of credentials.

Tier-1 (Jim Lanza)

The tournaments were well run, even if uneventful, although there were some lopsided games in early play.

Team CT. (Jim Lanza)

There was a record turn out for tryouts: 467 kids!

Questions were raised, such as whom from the program should recommend the kids for tryouts? Is there a limit to the number of players from a team or program? Jim said that coaches are generally a good resource to make a recommendation. While there are no longer

limits on numbers of players, the guidelines are to use good judgment in selecting those players who are competitively the best in class and have a legitimate chance of advancing through the tryout selections. Don't dissuade any player's eagerness to compete and desire to showcase their talent, but be self-policing in who should attend.

Secretary (Glenn Van Moffaert)

Last month there was discussion and debate concerning the Tier-1 Committee's proposal concerning the rule change to continue to foster and build a robust T-1 hockey program, as well as manage the effect of having Greenwich Blues withdraw from the Tier-1 Southern District. Issues arose regarding the interpretation of whether out-of-state players are also considered in the tabulation as out-of-district players. There was also concern whether the displaced Greenwich players who may move to Mid-Fairfield are in addition to the limited number of out-of-district players. Since none of the Tier-1 Committee was present to answer directly, a motion (seconded) to postpone the question to the March CHC BOD meeting in order to receive clarifying statement from the Tournament Committee was approved by voice vote. A motion (seconded) to recall the question from committee passed by a unanimous show of hands.

The proposed Tier-1 Rule Changes were communicated via e-mail and presented as follows, with points numbers 1, 2 and 4 addressed first and resolved without amendment:

Proposed Tier 1 Rule Changes

Presently, Tier-1 hockey is divided into two geographic districts (North and South), each with two organizations (a "sponsoring program") that field teams for competition in Tier-1. In order to provide a smooth transition into this tiered structure, sponsoring programs were limited to building their teams with players who reside within their District, plus a limited number (3) of players who reside within Connecticut but outside the District geographic boundaries ("Out-Of-District players"; or "OOD"), or reside of out-of-state ("OOS"), provided that no more than two (2) of the three (3) players are OOS. This accommodation was made for one year only (2007-08 season). However, once an OOD/OOS player was rostered, then that player would remain grandfathered with the sponsoring program until they returned to a program within their District. Out of state players were not to be grandfathered, only in state residents who were rostered out of district.

The CHC has obtained notice that Greenwich Blues is withdrawing from the Southern District Tier-1 structure. In accordance with the practice governing changes to policies/rules, the Tier-1 committee timely presented a rule change for consideration at the February CHC Board of Directors regular meeting, to accommodate the effect of the withdrawal of the Greenwich Blues. However, there were conflicting points of view relating to the interpretation of the changes, and a motion was passed to postpone the question to the March Meeting in order for the Tier-1 Committee to provide further guidance. This restatement is made to clarify the position of the Tier-1 committee regarding the changes to include:

Restated proposal effective for the 2008-2009 season:

1. The Northern District (the Clippers and the Wolves) will be allowed four (4) Out of District players (OOD). Except for those grandfathered CT resident OOD players (3 maximum) that were permitted for the 2007-08 season, Mid-Fairfield is allowed zero (0) OOD. However, the three (3) maximum OOD grandfathered players per team for Mid-Fairfield can be comprised of grandfathered players from both the Greenwich Blues and Mid-Fairfield. Players would remain grandfathered until they returned to a program within their District. Rationale: The grandfathering rule remains the same except to allow the displaced Greenwich Blue players' grandfather privileges

to be assigned to Mid-Fairfield. This is sought to promote and accelerate the trend toward parity between the Tier 1 programs.

2. Players from Southern District who try out and do not make a Mid-Fairfield Tier-1 team can play with a Northern District team without counting toward the OOD maximum (4). These players would be grandfathered to that sponsoring program until they've returned to a program within their District. Rationale: Allow for displaced players (former Greenwich Blues or Mid-Fairfield players) to find a home within the CHC Tier 1 vs. the independent programs.

3. For both the Northern and Southern District, three (3) out of state players (OOS) would be allowed per team. Rationale: This is an increase of 1 from the previous limit intended to promote and accelerate the trend toward parity between the Tier 1 programs.

4. For purposes of counting players, OOS are not included in the tabulation as OOD. Further, for the avoidance of doubt, CHC rostered players from Pawling Youth Hockey are considered to be CT-residents of the Northern District.

{NOTE: Steve Baker from Darien Youth Hockey, gave written notice that the following amendment is intended to be offered with respect to Point #3: Tier 1 teams will be allowed no out of state players. Definitions - Out of state player- a player is considered out of state if the player was not rostered on a CHC team the previous season. Comments - This definition attempts to address two concerns that have been mentioned 1) it grandfathers existing non Ct residents who played in CHC last year, 2) it does not discriminate against existing or future non Ct residents playing in T2 programs who wants to try out for T1- for example a NY resident kid who played at Ridgefield and then wants to try out for T1.}

At the outset of discussion to point#3, a motion (seconded) to amend was made to reduce the number of OOS from three (3) to zero (0). Discussion and debate followed, during which Jim Lanza, representing the T-1 Committee, reiterated the guidance that T-1 was created in response to market-place pressures, as evidenced by the proliferation of the so-called independent leagues. The inclusion of a limited number of OOS players is seen as a rational compromise to develop legitimate T1 programs, which in turn will continue to attract the best CT-players. Further discussion was made to consider the effect of OOS players, and whether there should be time-bound limitations on the OOS provision, but these notions were not formalized to a further amendment as presented.

A motion (second) to call the question on the amendment was recognized and the motion to amend FAILED by a show of hands (Y:6; N: majority).

Another motion (seconded) to amend point #3 to reduce the number of OOS from three (3) to two (2) was discussed. It was pointed out that since there are five teams per Sponsoring Program, allowing 3 OOS permitted 15 players within a Sponsoring Program, whereas 2 OOS per team resulted in 10 OOS players within the Sponsoring Program; reduction to two-OOS essentially returns to the present state. During debate, a motion (seconded) to amend the motion was offered to consider the number twelve (12) as the maximum number of OOS per Sponsoring Program provided that no more than three (3) OOS are allowed on any one team. After debate, a motion to call the question (seconded) was recognized, and the amendment to the amendment PASSED by tally of show of hands (Y:17; N:9). The subject of the effect on the total number of OOS permitted (12) was resumed in debate on the amendment as amended. After debate, a motion to call the question (seconded) on the amendment (as amended) was recognized, and the amendment FAILED by a tally of a show of hands (Y:9; N:15).

A third motion (seconded) was raised to offer this compromise to Point #3: the limit on the total number of OOS players is ten (10) per Sponsoring Program, with no more than three

/Attachment #1 to March 2008 minutes
Attendance Log

Program	Total Absences	April 2007	May	June	August Presidents' Meeting	September	October	November	December	January 2008	February	March
Avon	0											
Central	0											
CT Clippers	1				x							
CT Northern Lights	1			x								
CT Polar Bears	0											
CT Stars	3			x				x				x
CT Wolves	1											x
Darien	2		x							x		
East Haven	1		x									
ECHO	1		x									
Enfield	2			x								x
Gr. Bridgeport	1								x			
Gr. New Haven	0											
Greenwich Blues	2			x							x	
Greenwich Skate	2	x										x
Griffin	4	x	x	x					x			
Hamden	1											x
Kent	3	x	x	x								
Middlesex	2			x							x	
Mid-Fairfield	0											
New Canaan	3	x	x						x			
Northeastern	2								x			x
Northwestern	1											x
Pawling	1								x			
Ridgefield	3	x	x									x
Salisbury	8	x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x
Simsbury	4	x	x	x								x
South Windsor	2	x										x
Southeastern	1										x	
Southern	1		x									
Stamford	1		x									
Wallingford	2		x	x								
Watertown	1			x								
West Hartford	2					x					x	
West Haven	1					x						
Western	2	x										x
Wonderland Wizards	2	x	x									
Yale	2			x							x	