

Minutes of the Presidents' Meeting of CHC Board of Directors, August 26, 2008

CALL TO ORDER 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: All Programs except (number in parentheses indicate total absences this season including this evening): CT Wolves (2); Grn. Blues (1); Griffin (1); New Canaan (1); Northeastern (2); Ridgefield (1); Salisbury* (4); West Haven (1). The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes.

**Note: Salisbury had lost their status of Good Standing in the prior season, and that condition carries over into this current CHC Year (2008-2009).*

Board Officers Present: President, Mike Meakem; Treasurer, Mike Federico; Secretary: Glenn Van Moffaert.
Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia; Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; District-IV Commissioner, Glenn Van Moffaert; Women's & Girls' Hockey: Chairperson Joe Dymarczyk; Tier-1 Director, and Boys/Girls Player Development Director, Jim Lanza; Squirt Tournament Director, Thomas Regan; Girls' Director: Jacqueline DiNuccio and Carolyn Holt; Midget Director: Amy Landino; Supplemental Director (Tier-4): Art Blakeslee;
USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: Registrar, Patty Garcia.
USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: NE District Director, Jim Lanza.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The June minutes were not available for acceptance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Brian Farrell of BISHOP PHOTO gave a brief presentation (including brochures) on the services of his company. Additional details may be found at <http://www.bishopphoto.com/>.

Representatives from the HARTFORD WOLFPACK hockey team gave a brief presentation of their continuing support of youth hockey programs and their promotional activities, such as "family fun night". The season home opener is October 11. Additional details may be found at: www.hartfordwolffpack.com.

REPORTS

The Board of Directors was introduced by Mike Meakem (President) and reports were begun with the announcement of a new position of CHC Associate Registrar, Sue McCullough. Patty Garcia, will be serving as Registrar for the 2008-09 season, but this will be Patty's last year.

Secretary (Glenn Van Moffaert)

BY-LAWS and RULES

Glenn mentioned that no amendments to the By-Laws were received for consideration. Therefore, the By-Laws will remain unchanged for the 2008-2009 season. The Rules & Policies will be redrafted in light of the substantial changes that were made in the 2007-2008 season. Glenn will work with the Tournament Committee and Eligibility Committee to publish the revised rules.

ATTENDANCE

Your printed name on the sign-in sheet is the only mechanism to record attendance.

Registrar (Patty Garcia)

Patty remarked that while this year will be an on-boarding year for Sue to take over the primary responsibilities as CHC Registrar, the key responsibilities to ensure proper registration is that the PROGRAM registrars be timely and pay very close attention to detail with their submission of forms, money and all other requirements. Being organized, diligent and not bashful to communicate makes life easier for everyone.

REGISTRATION and ROSTERING can be a complex process for the uninitiated. Please communicate to your program registrars that questions regarding the proper procedure to manage roster amendments is only an e-mail or phone call away to CHC (Patty, Sue or Kathy Ludwig can guide you expertly). Remember that there are things that simply are poison pills such as “BORROWING” players; or “MOVING UP” an age group (SQ-age player plays in a PW game). In the move-up situation, a single game occurrence means that the SQ-age player is permanently in the PW-age group and cannot “move-back”. While these examples are decisions typically made by fair-minded coaches, it is the responsibility of the program registrar to effectively communicate the consequences of these actions made outside of the process and rules mandated by USA-H or CHC can have dire consequences.

Kathy gave guidance that Step-1 is “Registration” which is controlled by USA-H is meant to capture the personal data of the player; Step-2 is ROSTERING and managed through CHC. A player must be rostered onto a team in order to be “legal” to play hockey competitively. An example of severe consequence is when it is discovered that a coach “borrowed” a player (unrostered on his team), that coach faces a 1-YEAR SUSPENSION.

The requirement for player signatures on all rosters is being relaxed for those teams that will not travel out of state. Teams such as MD-undeclared tier, all Tier-4, and Tier-3B MAY not need player signature if they limit their competition to CHC. However, if they are playing in a tournament out of state, then they must have a roster that is signed by each player and coach and authenticated by CHC Registrar.

Forms All forms are available through the CHC website. Please use the Tournament Application or Travel form, as appropriate, since special consideration must be made if a non-USA-H team is participating in the tournament.

President (Mike Meakem)

The CHC website (chchockey.org) is the repository for the most current information regarding CHC activities.

NEW FACES: Mike welcomed new volunteers, and a new position to CHC:

D2-Commissioner, Richard Gudis

ACE Director, Mike Kingston

Associate Registrar, Sue McCullough

SQ Director, Tom Regan

Cross-Ice Director, Scott Miller [NEW POSITION]

Volunteers are needed for the positions of MT and PW Directors

Proactive and timely COMMUNICATION continues to be key focus for Mike and the CHC. One way to make communications easier is the use of conference calls.

Mike announced that he is forming a Committee to focus on ways to improve hockey in CT. He is staffing this committee of Presidents of local programs. If you have an interest, please contact Mike.

CHC now has about a dozen teams in place for MD-full season hockey! This is a good example of sustained interest in hockey. The teams are organized through the CT Valley Midget House League, see CTVHL.org for details.

Treasurer (Mike Federico)

Mike distributed a handout detailing the current balance sheet and Profit & Loss statement. Any questions regarding the P&L can be directed to Mike. Year-end financials will not be available until Aug.31

Grow the Game: In Ken Dixon's absence, Mike Meakem spoke to the positive image being built by Den's efforts. One way of continuing this effort is through the use of "Flash Newsletters". Please send itmes of interest to Ken and/or Mike to be added to the next newsflash. The Flash Newsletter is different from the "Newsletters" that you have been receiving from time to time. The Flash newsletter is intended to communicate focused area new items, as opposed to general items of interest ion a variety of topics. While there is a cost to CHC, there are also partners in this arena, such as Quinnipiac College.

Note: Tuesday September 9, at 7:30pm is a G-T-G meeting for the member programs. If your program does not yet have a representative, please appoint one, or if your representative has changes, please let Ken know, ASAP.

Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)

A NEW RELEASE FORM is available; please use it. REGISTRATION, ROSTER and RELEASE are related. Registration through USA-H is "step-1". If you have a new player into your organization, then you must obtain a RELEASE in order to properly ROSTER your player onto a team (step-2). RELASE is mandated and is the safeguard for Programs to secure any debts of a player (financial, or physical asset [like a jersey or equipment loaned]). GOOD NEWS>>>only about 20 players remain without releases!! This is a BIG IMPROVEMENT!. Since some programs have yet to complete their tryouts, Releases are continuing to be issued. If your Program has its teams established for the upcoming season, do not delay in securing Releases, or sending your roster lists to Kathy.

REMEMBER—ONLY ONE RELEASE PER PLAYER PER YEAR!!!! Programs should ask for the release from another program. Instead incoming programs are to inform the parents of that player to obtain the release from their departing program.

Roster eligibility requires diligence to watch for WILDCARD limits. Only 2 Out-of-State players per team. Grandfathering of players is phasing itself out as time marches on.

Special considerations with women/girls: be mindful of CITIZENSHIP. If you are unclear how to handle non-US Citizen matters, please speak to Kathy and Patty.

Coaches screening is mandated, and the waiver to permit screening is found on the web. There may be a slight increase in the fee this year (tbd).

The District Commissioners report that all is quiet.

Girls (Joe Dymarczyk/Jacqueline DiNuccio/ Carolyn Holt)

Please see the website for team declarations. The Festival will have a different flavor this year, since there will be no Showcase. Tryouts are being held in CT, not in NH as was made in previous years. The players are chosen by allocation among each of the States, and not "best-of-the-best".

Coaching Director (Mike Powers)

In Mike Powers' absence, Mike Meakem reported to visit the website for the most current information. ([http:// chchockey.org](http://chchockey.org)) regarding USA-H registration. This is made available online. Coaching cards dated 06/06 are EXPIRED! Level1 &2 are full for Sept ---- get registered and secure a spot if you are interested in being a bench coach.

It appears that too many coaches do not understand, or fail to believe that CEP Level is important and enforced. You must have a current and proper CEP level to qualify to be with your team.

Rules regarding Student Coaches will be investigated and communicated separately.

Referee in Chief (Randy Zaritsky)

Randy reported that referee seminars have started. No pre-registration is required, and you can see the web for details on times and place. There is only ONE LEVEL-4 seminar in New England this year. It is on Oct. 4, at the Trinity College Rink.

Game reports will be entered via a common online device. They will be auto-forwarded to the commissioners for appropriate action. This should greatly help the enforcement of rules, and the management of player/coach discipline.

Tournament Committee

In Brian Oatway's absence, Mike Meakem spoke about the "tweaks" that were made last season and seem to be working, such as the commitment process for declaring your teams.

Issues such as length of periods are mandated by USA-H; CHC enforces these for T1/T2 as they compete for advancement through nationals. Tier3A/B will be modified accordingly.

For the T2 declared teams, only 8 will advance into post-season play. SQ T2 has 16 teams, therefore eight will not compete past the regular season, and will not "drop down" into the Supplemental Tournament. PW T2 has 12-teams and BA has 10 declared teams. It is an express requirement that the T2 champion and runner-up must advance to represent CT in regionals.

BA T3-A has 14 declared teams, of which 12 will advance to post-season play.

Score sheets The Tournament Directors need the ORIGINAL scoresheet to be sent to them. This is required in order to monitor player penalties, roster irregularities and other related items. In the absence of a MT and PW Director, please send your score sheets to Brian Oatway.

Midgets (Amy Landino) Scheduling is underway, and issues are being solved / working themselves out. Please post home games, even if you are MD-undeclared.

Tier-4 (Art Blakeslee) Sept. 30 is the deadline for declaration into T4. For tournament scheduling, a process including Request for Proposal from host teams and notification is being finalized. The likely outcome is that RFP are sent out in Oct, responses due in Nov, and selection notification made in Dec.

Tier-4 games are not "League Designated Games" since T-4 does not have "standings" associated. However, all games are posted into the schedule in order to determine confirmation of games.

Tier-1 and Player Development (Jim Lanza)

MD T1 tourney in the 1st week of November, using a format of two-27min periods. Team-CT Boys, (15/16/17 yo) have tryouts mid Nov; others mid-Jan. ALL registration is made ONLINE. See the web for details.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mike Meakem gave special recognition to Kathy Ludwig, whose dedication, institutional history and common sense advise are most gratefully appreciated.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
7:30pm
Italian American Club
35 Chase Lane, West Haven.

/Attachment #1 to August 2008 minutes
Attendance Log

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