

## Minutes of the CHC Board of Directors Meeting, December 16, 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): Greenwich Blues (2); Griffin (3); North East (3); Pawling (1); Salisbury (8); Wallingford (2); Yale (1). The attendance log, reflecting tonight's attendance, is made as an attachment to the minutes.

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

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; District-IV Commissioner, Glenn Van Moffaert; Tournament Chairman, Brian Oatway; PeeWee Tournament Director, Rich Dibble; Midget Director: Amy Landino; Supplemental Director (Tier-4): Art Blakeslee; Grow the Game Director, Ken Dixon.

USA Hockey Appointees (non-voting) present: none.

USA Hockey Officials (non-voting) present: Jim Lanza.

### **ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

A motion (seconded) to accept November minutes passed without objection.

### **REPORTS**

#### **President (Mike Meakem)**

1. Mike emphasized that while the efforts made by those who volunteer their time to make youth hockey a reality in CT is often overlooked, their efforts are made with a vision to CHC as a whole and is not program biased. Recent examples are the roster issues that he and Kathy Ludwig resolved or the arrangements for Hockey Day that Ken Dixon championed. Fortright communication has been a constant theme and the CHC body has been timely apprised of events that may affect them. But not a day goes by without something tugging at your sleeve, and Mike and all others who get involved do take the time to delve deeper into the issues at hand, to make inquiries before taking action on the matter. If anyone has issues they feel are left unresolved, raise them directly at these meetings, or with Mike. But once issues have been resolved, please let that be the end to the matter.
2. Mike has received concerns about the use of Supplementary Discipline (generally Ru 401). This is used not as "extra punishment", but it is used judiciously to address certain recurring bad behavior, or acts that are especially troublesome. While it may appear that coaches get the brunt of a Ru 401 outcome, it is in all cases deserved. For example, aggressive "trash talking", or racial slurs is not behavior that is tolerated, and coaches need to be on top of all matters that happen within the locker room, and wherever their team is assembled.
3. A terrible incident to report, regarding an injury to a player that resulted from an illegal boarding check. The child who was checked suffered injury to his spinal cord, and as a result may not play hockey again. Although he can walk, there are many complications with his injury. Please be mindful that illegal checks can have devastating results.
4. Revitalize Hockey committee met for the second time on Dec. 4. The goal of the Committee is to cultivate ideas that will effectuate a positive change to CHC. The five main principles of consideration are: redefine MT hockey; rebuild in-house programs; shorten the season; analyze the effect of Releases; and modify Roster management procedures. Of these MT hockey and season

length were discussed at length at the most recent meeting, and the Committee will be addressing all things in upcoming meetings.

**Vice President (Jason Pniewski)**

Jason has observed, as well as received comment by others, that there are a great many instances where referees aren't aware of how to work around time constraints at the end of a game. Often they misuse running time, or do not properly make adjustment to the game clock. Under USAH rules, period lengths are established at 16min-at the BA level. If at the commencement of the third period, there is insufficient time of day to complete the period, then the referees are in charged to adjust the clock in a prescribed manner. This adjustment to the game clock does not seem to be applied properly in many instances. Randy Zaritsky and the local officiating bodies have been made aware of these inconsistencies, and are working to resolve the issue.

**Registrar (Patty Garcia)** If any program is planning to play hockey outside the borders of CT, you must clear things with Patty, otherwise, at a minimum, there may not be insurance coverage.

**Treasurer (Mike Federico)**

Mike passed out the latest balance sheet. One noteworthy item, is about a \$100,000.00 recovery from the litigation settlement against Cavallaro.

**Grow the Game (Ken Dixon)**

**Hockey Day is January 10!** USAH provided assistance to get all the ice. A media campaign (radio) is being made to help promote this event. **NEEDED:** Two volunteers per location (10 rinks) to perform simple tasks like collecting required forms, help dressing-out the kids, making an equipment inventory, etc....also some ON -ICE volunteers are requested.

**Eligibility Committee (Kathy Ludwig)**

Coaches continue to stir problems. Latest events include: Improper CEP certifications and improper roster management. Remember, the deadline for getting CEP / Roster amendment is 12/31! Without proof of proper coaching qualification, coaches will be barred from further participation with that team. There are some known issues about seminar attendance not being timely reported--- for instance NY State is about 1-month behind, and USAH has its own time line to process the paperwork. **REMEMEBR** USAH offices are **CLOSED** from 12-23 **THROUGH THE NEW YEAR!!!** NE-District will **NOT ACCEPT** registrations that are marked 2009!

Coaches **SCREENING** – this is a **REQUIRMENT!** Programs must screen all their coaches! At this time about 11 programs are fully compliant, and those that are not may be in jeopardy of losing coaches. Any questions call **KATHY** – not Patty Garcia; Patty is not involved with coaches screening program.

The District Commissioners report that all is **NOT** quiet:

Dst-I: Too many kicking penalties.

Dst-IV: Several acts of violent Xchg, and Chx-behind.

**Coaching (Mike Powers)**

There is a lot of activity to sign-up for coaching seminars, but follow-through and commitment is lagging. For instance, the L3 seminar had 120 persons sign-up, but less than 75 showed up.

**Tournament Committee (Brian Oatway)**

Brian handed out the tentative Tournament Schedule, notable Girls T-1 is t-b-d.

**PeeWee (Rich Dibble):** Score sheets need to be filled out properly, **PLEASE!**

**Midgets (Amy Landino)** Game sheets are still coming in.

**Tier-4 (Art Blakeslee)** A final announcement for T4 is expected in the 2 weekend of February, with assignments made with competitiveness and geography as main considerations

**Team-CT (Jim Lanza)**: Tryouts Birth Years 97, 96, 95 January 11 at Cromwell. On-line registration closed 12/31.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Report on Litigation Settlement.** Jim Lanza reported that the lawsuit against former president Cavallaro et. al. has been settled with a judgment in favor of CHC of approximately \$130,000.00 in restitution, which after legal fees and expenses netted CHC approximately \$100,000 (see treasurer's report and handout for details). Of the six main counts against the defendants, five were plead down as satisfied through restitution, the remaining sixth charge resulted in a permanent injunction against the defendants prohibiting them from forming or being affiliated with any 501(c)(3) endeavor or participation with a youth hockey organization of any kind.

**Financial Review Committee.** Mike Meakem again raised the call for additional volunteers to form a Financial Review Committee. So far, only Watertown has stepped onto the ice. The need for this Committee should be readily apparent, as the conditions and circumstances are similar to those which were in place when CHC lost oversight of its financial affairs and the embezzlement took place under Cavallaro. It is not that we do not trust ourselves, but each Member Program should demand an INDEPENDENT set of eyes on the books of CHC. This should be the first imperative of CHC, and the Member Programs themselves! The CHC Members are also at risk...consider that based solely on the 990 filings, more than \$10MM flows through the member programs.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**January 27, 2009**  
7:30pm  
Italian American Club  
35 Chase Lane, West Haven.

/Attachment #1 to December 2008 minutes  
Attendance Log

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