

Minutes of the CHC Board of Directors Meeting, June 28, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL Jarry Rasmussen brought the meeting to order

Directors Present: All except: Enfield, CT Riverhawks, Pawling, and Western. Notwithstanding these absences, a Quorum is satisfied. The attendance log reflecting tonight's attendance is made as an attachment to these minutes.

Board Officers Present: President, Jarry Rasmussen, Vice President, Mike McCullough, Secretary, Art Blakeslee, Treasurer, Michael Federico

Absent: None

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; District-III Commissioner, Art Blakeslee; Girls Tier 2 Director, Frank Usseglio; Coaching Director, Bruce Wolanin; Tournament Chair, Chuck Wilkerson; Grow the Game Director, Ken Dixon; Referee in Chief, Barry Zalcman

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The May minutes were not yet available so this was tabled.

REPORTS

President: Back from the National conference, Jarry had the following information:

- USA Hockey is supporting the development of goalies that has been suppressed within the ADM program by offering "Try It" Goalie equipment designed to easily be put on and taken off directly over basic skating equipment, allowing for easy change so that multiple players can try them during single practice. These sets are available at \$189 each, and CHC will match the first set purchased by any program with a second set, but only one "free" set per program. Deadline to order is July 15, 2016, with delivery expected in November.
- Tier 1 Association criteria have been established. The combined Tier 1 Girls teams at any age level cannot consist of more than 20% of the girls at that age level registered in the state. Combined Boys teams at any age level cannot roster more than 15% of the entire population of registered boys of that age level in the state. These limits should not have significant impact on CT's Tier 1 programs.
- There was a proposal to limit Out of State players to 3 per team, but that was pulled at the last minute. Passage would have had a significant impact on Tier 1 hockey in CT, particularly at the Midget level.
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 tryouts are being restricted to no earlier than 48 hours after Nationals have ended, beginning with the 2017 tryout season.
- Age names (Mite, Squirt, etc.) are being phased out in favor of age designations (8-U, 10-U, etc.)
- As part of a discussion regarding safety issues, it was mentioned that Connecticut is the last holdout with a mandatory neckguard rule. USA Hockey has cited studies that indicate that a neck guard may actually represent more of a danger than a safety improvement. In addition, it was stated that the referees, as representatives of USA Hockey, should not be enforcing rules that are not in the USA Hockey rulebook. As a result, a proposal was brought to the floor for discussion that would change the wording of Article V (A) of CHC's Operating Rules from requiring neckguards to strongly encouraging their use. That proposal, as an exhibit to the minutes, will be discussed at the August meeting and then a vote will take place.

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Financial reports were presented and reviewed. Most tournament ice for 2015-16 has been billed and accounted for. \$2,200 in referee fees resulting from Team Connecticut functions has been reimbursed to CHC by Team CT.

New England District/Team Connecticut: Jarry reported the following:

- Boys 15, 16 and 17's Festival, presented later in April and May, so as not to impact Regionals, Nationals and other events, was well-received and parties liked the new timing.
- Festival participation for the Girls was sold out.
- There was a majority opinion that the number of post-season tournaments had grown too cumbersome. As a result, many sectional tournaments were eliminated. Remaining tournaments will be as follows:
 - U-15, U-16 and U-18 Boys Tier 1 Regional will be held Nov- 11-13, 2016, in/around Berkshire
 - U-16 and U-19 Girls Tier 1 Regional will also be held Nov. 11-13, 2016, location TBD
 - Tier 1 Regionals for U-14 Boys & Girls will be March 17, 2017
 - Tier 2 Sectionals have been eliminated
 - Tier 3 Sectionals will be held March 24-26, 2017
 - Nationals for all levels will be held April 6-8, 2017.

Women's & Girls' Hockey: No report.

Referee in Chief: Referee seminars are being input to USA Hockey. New this season is a Saturday afternoon session from 2-8 pm to see if that option is popular with those who cannot make an 8 am start. The offer from last season is still available for referees to come to programs to meet with players, parents, boards, etc. to discuss refereeing (to stimulate interest in the opportunities available for older players to ref), issues that programs may have with the referees/process, ideas for improvements/communication, etc.

Grow-the –Game / Marketing: Ken Dixon is working on a Referee Rapid Fire program for the website that would have referees dressed in goalie gear facing shots from players at a practice. The idea is that this would help personalize referees to the players, break down the stereotypes of referees as “the enemy” and help stimulate conversations that would alleviate player/ref tensions.

Webmaster: Contacts for teams are made by entering the information directly through the website. So if you are a Board Members, Scheduler, etc, please use the functionality on the web site. Please go to the 2016-2017 CT Hockey & Affiliate Contact Info tab to self-identify. This is the source for all information used for mailings and distributions, and all previous information is being “dumped.” Failure to self-identify will leave you out of the communications process.

- The declaration deadline for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Midget teams was June 15, 2016. The declaration results are attached to the minutes as an exhibit. There will be a mandatory meeting of all Midget Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs and teams in July 27 in Shelton, time TBD.

Registrar: If your program has a new registrar, then the new registrar needs to inform USA-H in order to get authorized under the Registry. The software will be going out to programs by mid-July. The Registrar's meeting will be held at the Shelton Twin Rinks on July 26, time TBD.

Disabled Hockey: There will be a benefit program on August 13 at Wonderland to benefit the CT Storm. Featured entertainment includes the Hanson Brothers. Be there to support this worthy cause.

Tournament Committee. All proposals from the previous voting have passed.

Coaching Education Program. Reminder that ANY coach with a Level 3 that has expired and been renewed twice cannot renew again and MUST obtain a Level 4. Any coach on a Tier 1 Boys or Girls team U-16, U-

18 or U-19 with a current Level 3 must obtain a Level 4 by October 31, 2016, regardless of the expiration date of their Level 3. The same applies to Boys and Girls Tier 2 U-14, U-16, U-18 and U-19 teams. There are 20 spots left at the Level 4 clinic August 6-7 in Windsor. The Documents section of the CHC website contains a summary of all coaching requirements.

- All coaching modules are now available for any coaches needing to update or take a new level.
- Bruce is filling out his coaching team, looking for one more person.
- Coaching clinics have been posted through the first week of August. A request was made to have a Level 1 later in the season to support programs that have later starts for their mites, in-house, etc. Bruce will take this under advisement.

Eligibility & Safe Sport: Screening for all volunteers is mandatory. Screenings are made every other year. Program presidents have received lists of coaches/Board Members, volunteers, etc. who are clear to participate for the 2016/2017 season. An updated list of the parties who have completed the Safe Sport program will be provided as well in the near future.

- Eventually, Safe Sport complaints regarding sexual abuse or misconduct will be handled by USA Hockey and USOC professionals, removing the burden from local affiliates.

District Commissioners: Even in summer, reports come in. In the most recent incident, in a Midget showcase, a non-rostered player playing in a non-sanctioned game was given a game misconduct. These incidents are all too frequent in summer leagues, and parents should be aware of the situations in which their players are being placed...

OLD BUSINESS

The USA Hockey mandated Goalie Development program, previously described by Jarry, has been slightly modified. The proposal for RI and CT to share the burden has been revised, such that RI will pay \$2,000 and CT will pay \$3,000, based on the disparity of player population. Jared Waimon of the CT Crease will be the director of the program for the first year

NEW BUSINESS

Scheduling Meeting: The Scheduling Meeting will be held the week of August 15 at the IA Club. Details will be circulated once the date is finalized.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A Motion to Adjourn (seconded) PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT MEETING:

Presidents Meeting
August 23, 2016
7:30pm
Italian American Club
35 Chase Lane, West Haven

EXISTING:

ARTICLE V Competition

- A. All players must wear all protective hockey equipment as required by Rule 304 of "USA Hockey Official Rules. In addition, all CHC players in all age classifications, Mites through Midgets, are required to wear "BNQ Certified" neck guards. ***It is the responsibility of all programs to inform their members that neck guards do not protect from blunt trauma caused by pucks or sticks.*** The penalty for not wearing a neck guard will be a warning for a player's first offense in a game; a misconduct penalty shall be assessed to the player for a subsequent offense during the same game.

PROPOSED:

ARTICLE V Competition

- A. All players must wear all protective hockey equipment as required by Rule 304 of "USA Hockey Official Rules. In addition, all CHC players in all age classifications, Mites through Midgets, are ***strongly encouraged*** to wear "BNQ Certified" neck guards. ***It is the responsibility of all programs to inform their members that neck guards do not protect from blunt trauma caused by pucks or sticks.*** ~~The penalty for not wearing a neck guard will be a warning for a player's first offense in a game; a misconduct penalty shall be assessed to the player for a subsequent offense during the same game.~~

EXPLANATION:

At the recent National meeting in Colorado Springs, during a discussion by the Competition Committee, it was brought to the attention of the Connecticut delegation that USA Hockey's policy regarding the use of neckguards has recently changed. Based on the results of studies performed by such institutions as the Mayo Clinic, there was no demonstrable benefit to the use of neckguards. As such, USA Hockey has removed their former "strong recommendation" to wear neckguards.

Further in the discussion, the question was asked how CHC enforces the neckguard rule. It was explained that enforcement fell to the referees. There was an immediate response that referees should not be enforcing such a rule, as their entire responsibility is defined by the USA Hockey Rulebook. If a situation is not in that rulebook, they do not have discretion to apply "local rules" for enforcement.

Given that there is no method of enforcement of the CHC supplement to the rule, it is proposed that the requirement be replaced by the strong recommendation, and the penalty language be struck.

Additionally, since enforcement is not available, it is also proposed that the usual discussion period be shortened, such that this proposal can be voted on at the initial meeting at which it is being presented. This will clarify CHC's position on the matter prior to the start of the CHC & USA Hockey seasons for Midgets and Girls Tier 1 programs.

YTD CHC ATTENDANCE 5/15-4/16

These are the rules regarding meeting attendance & good standing:

Article III Meetings

1. Each member program shall be represented at CHC Board Meetings by its designated representative, or in his absence, by an officer of the program, or by such representative designated in writing for that meeting. Duly represented member programs in Good Standing shall have the privilege to propose amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws, Polices and Rules, and vote on matters raised to the Board of Directors.
2. Regular Meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM at the West Haven Italian American Club, Chase Lane, West Haven, Connecticut, unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors.
3. The Annual Meeting shall be held in April, place and date to be determined by the Board of Directors.
4. Each member program shall be represented, as stipulated in paragraph (1) above, in at least 75% of all regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Should a member program fail to attend the minimum number of meetings, then a \$50 fine shall be added to that program's annual membership registration costs and such program shall not be considered to be in Good Standing. A member program may regain its status of Good Standing if subsequent to its loss of Good Standing, **it has attended three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled monthly meetings** or such sanction is lifted by petition to and majority vote of the Board of Directors, subject to the condition that if said member program has lost its status of Good Standing twice during the then-current season, the sanction can only be lifted by petition to and majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**** Teams highlighted in RED are not currently in Good Standing, and teams highlighted in YELLOW are one absence away from being Not In Good Standing**

	8/25/2015	9/22/2015	10/27/2015	11/17/2015	12/15/2015	1/26/2016	3/1/2016 *	3/22/2016	4/26/2016	5/24/2016	6/28/2016	2015/2016 Meeting Total Absences	Attendance Percentage
Avon					A			A				2	81.82%
Central		A			Good Standing Attendance		A*	A - Good Standing by Appeal				0	100.00%
Ct Barons												0	100.00%
CT Northern Lights			Good Standing Attendance	A			A*	Good Standing by Appeal				0	100.00%
CT Polar Bears	A	A				A	A*	A	Good Standing by Appeal			0	100.00%
CT Riverhawks						A					A	2	81.82%
CT Wolfpack		A		A		A	A*	A	Good Standing by Appeal			0	100.00%
Darien				A				A				2	81.82%
East Haven												0	100.00%
Echo		A	A									2	81.82%
Enfield								A			A	2	81.82%
Gr NH				A			A*	A	A		A	4	63.64%
Greenwich Blues							A*					0	100.00%
Greenwich Skate				A			Good Standing Attendance					0	100.00%

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Griffin	A			Good Standing Attendance	A	A	A*	A	A			5	54.55%
Hamden												0	100.00%
Kent			A	A			Good Standing Attendance	A	A			2	81.82%
Mid Fairfield												0	100.00%
New Canaan				A			A*					1	90.91%
Northeast								A				1	90.91%
Northwestern	Good Standing by Appeal											0	100.00%
Pawling		Good Standing Attendance		A				Good Standing by Appeal			A	1	90.91%
Putnam												0	100.00%
Ridgefield				A								1	90.91%
Salisbury					A		A*	Good Standing by Appeal				0	100.00%
Simsbury		Good Standing Attendance					A*	Good Standing by Appeal				0	100.00%
Shoreline Sharks												0	100.00%
So Windsor												0	100.00%
Southeastern				A				A				2	81.82%
Southern												0	100.00%
Stamford		Good Standing Attendance						A	A			2	81.82%
Wallingford												0	100.00%
Watertown						A			A			2	81.82%

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West Hartford						A	A*					1	90.91%
West Haven												0	100.00%
Western											A	1	90.91%
Whalers								A				1	90.91%
Wizards												0	100.00%
Yale												0	100.00%