

Minutes of the CHC Board of Directors Meeting, February 28, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL Jarry Rasmussen brought the meeting to order

Directors Present: All except: CT Northern Lights, Hamden, Kent, Salisbury and Stamford. 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, Chuck Wilkerson; Secretary, Art Blakeslee; & Treasurer, Michael Federico

Other CHC officials (non-voting) present: Registrar, Mary Turner; Eligibility Chairperson and District-I Commissioner, Kathy Ludwig; Tier I Director and District-III Commissioner, Art Blakeslee; District IV Commissioner Bob Walker; Tournament Chair, Chuck Wilkerson; Referee in Chief, Barry Zalzman; Grow the Game Co-Director, Leslie O'Brien; Girls & Women's Director, Graham Gill; Girls Tier I Director, Bill Leidt; Coaching Director, Bruce Wolanin; New England District, Tom Regan

ACCEPT THE MINUTES

The December minutes were presented and approved.

Guest Speaker: Pat Fisher, on behalf of the Nutmeg State Games

- Programs are encourages to participate in the Nutmeg Games Hockey Tournament. Many programs use this opportunity to get their Fall teams together to begin to bond over the summer. Details are at www.nutmegstategames.org

REPORTS

President:

- Jarry thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, memorials and remembrances for the loss of Mike McCullough's father-in-law.
- There are approximately 67 tournaments happening in the state this spring. Notes are being taken comments received and recorded, and observations made in an effort to improve future years, as we do consistently. The tournaments so far have been reported to be running well, and thanks go out to the numerous volunteers that make these tournaments possible every year. Coaches not sitting players who "misbehave" are not helping the players or the team.
- National Meeting developments:
 - Neck Guard Rule was discussed again. There currently is on USA Hockey-approved neck guard, so there is no rule enforcing their use at the national level. Canada is in the process of developing a neck guard that would be the official neck guard of Canadian youth hockey. There will likely be more discussion at the March meetings.
 - Mite full ice is done. There will be no exceptions, exemptions or other means to have full ice games be sanctioned.
 - This is a Rule Change year, and some of the proposals that were brought forward in Orlando included:
 - Eliminate clearing the puck on penalty kills, which would result in an icing call
 - Change to the tag-up rule
 - Specific Overtime rules for all USA Hockey-sponsored tournaments
 - Removal of checking from Bantams – this is believed to be dead already for this year
 - Referee Housekeeping issues, including 9 dot faceoffs (all faceoffs will take place at one of the 9 dots on the ice, and not at imaginary spots along lines between the dots) and a proposal to reduce 10-U minor penalties to 90 seconds from two minutes

Most importantly, USA Hockey has imposed Try-out rules, but has left it to the Affiliates to enforce those rules and impose sanctions on those programs that fail to comply. At the Orlando meeting, it was stressed that there will be no tryouts at the 14-U or higher levels for Tier 1 and Tier 2 programs until a minimum of 48 hours after the end of USA Hockey National competition. A meeting was held with the New England District affiliates plus Massachusetts, after which it was the impression that the states were all united with a severe penalty, such as tournament ineligibility for an entire program that violates the rules.

Massachusetts then reviewed the rule and determined that it was not effective until the 2017-2018 season, which meant that spring tryouts in 2017 were not impacted. Mass is dealing with internal competition with the USPHL, which represents approximately 5,000 of the best players in the state. As a result, Mass has determined that they will impose only a \$1 fine on any program that violates the tryout timeline.

Because of their proximity to Mass, and the fact that players cross these borders regularly, both Rhode Island and New Hampshire have decided to follow the lead of Mass and only fine programs \$1. New York, however, will enforce the rule as written, and will sanction programs in violation with a disqualification of all age levels from state, regional and national play.

The Executive Board of CHC has determined that, for the 2017-2018 season only, programs that violate the rule will be fined \$1,000. This fine will not apply to independent programs in the State of Connecticut. This is because they are not USA Hockey Tournament Eligible, and therefore are not subject to the Tournament rules.

For Connecticut programs, the unanswered question is whether teams that violated the tryout rules will be allowed to participate in National tournaments. At this point, the expectation is that teams that win their State or Regional tournaments will be allowed to participate. Where CT teams may find resistance will be the at-large bids that are used to fill in any openings in tournaments.

There was some discussion with the membership of CHC at this revelation. Some wondered why it was not brought to the membership for a discussion and vote, while others felt that the monetary penalty was not large enough, and still others who felt that the financial penalty was hurting the “non-elite” programs who cannot afford to pay to have their tryouts earlier. While Jarry allowed the discussion to play out, in the end, it was the position of the Executive Board that disciplinary issues are the purview of the Discipline Committee, and are not subject to membership votes or discussion. This penalty is strictly for the 2017-2018 season after which it is expected that CT, as well as neighboring states, will move to the “death penalty” for future violators.

Jarry also discussed the fact that CHC represents all programs in the State of Connecticut, and has the ability to enforce unilateral rules on any program in the state, whether or not they are a member of CHC. As such, rule review will be undertaken in the coming months to address many issues that will help bring our current rules in line with the changing market and the conditions therein, while maintaining emphasis on fairness, decorum and personal conduct. Issues such as parent behavior in and outside of the rinks, tailgate parties in rink parking lots where alcohol is served and consumed, continuing abuse of officials resulting in decreasing numbers of eligible referees and others will be addressed.

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Treasurer:

- A reminder that tournament ice invoices must be presented by hosts, not rinks. They must also be detailed, including date of event, age level, number of hours of ice time, hourly charge, and total due. Please note, Michael will not be chasing programs to pay them. It is up to the programs to submit invoices if they want to be paid.

- Funds are still available for programs for their Grow the Game efforts, including the Quick Change/One Goal goalie equipment.

Secretary: The Minutes records will include a brief statement that the January meeting was canceled after two weather-related postponements, so that our records show no gaps.

Referee in Chief: Nothing specific to add. Reinforced that referees are being provided with new rule information and will be enforcing those that are approved when they are approved.

Disabled Hockey: No report.

Website: Nothing to report.

Grow-the –Game / Marketing: There has been an increasing number of hits on the Tournament Central portion of the website. The numbers are up from last season, and response overall has been positive.

Coaching Education Program. Included as an addendum to these minutes.

Registrar: The season is winding down. Tournament Directors have been doing a good job with following up on discrepancies on rosters, player/coach eligibility, etc. National Bound teams need to be fully credentialed. Teams advancing to Regionals/Sectionals should contact Mary about documentation to be provided to the hosts.

Women’s & Girls’ Hockey: Graham Gill was introduced as the new Girls/Women’s Director for the state, taking over for Joe Demarczyk. For 2017, Mid Fairfield and the Jr Eagles will be the Tier 1 programs at the 19-U age level. The Hartford Jr. Wolfpack and IceCats will be the Tier 1 programs at the 14-U level.

New England District/Team Connecticut: Nothing additional to report above Jarry’s discussion.

Eligibility (Kathy Ludwig): All lists are current (SafeSport, Screenings and Releases).

District Commissioners: With the season winding down, hearings are being completed, and hopefully the tournament season will be quiet.

Tournament Director: The tournaments are in full swing, and are approximately half over. Things have been going well, and much thanks to the local hosts and volunteers who help make these happen.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

NEXT MEETING: **March 28, 2017, 7:30 pm**
Italian American Club
35 Chase Lane, West Haven

CHC Coach-in-Chief Report 02.28.17

1. 2016 Clinics:

- a. all have been "closed" and have had expense reports verified by district CIC:
 - >09.18 New London Level 1 -- 49 attendees
 - >09.25 Watertown Level 2 -- 62 attendees
 - >10.09 Watertown Level 2 -- 61 attendees
 - >10.16 Avon Level 1 -- 58 attendees
 - >presentation by Roger Grillo, NE ADM Regional Manager
 - >10.30 Avon Level 3 -- 60 attendees
 - >attended by Larry Rocha, New England Coach-in-Chief
 - >11.19 Boston Bruins Symposium Level 2/3
 - >11.27 North Haven/Northford Level 1 -- 72 attendees
 - >**seven no-shows**
 - >12.04 Wallingford Level 3 -- 68 attendees

2. 2017 Clinics:

- a. Have national office e-mail coaches requiring certification earlier in, and more frequently during, the clinic season
- b. Get more coaches to attend earlier clinics, which is related to the previous point
- c. Two New England Level 4 clinics:
 - i. June 24 – 25, 2017 in Concord, NH
 - ii. August 5 – 6, 2017 in Hartford, CT
 - iii. Coaches can register for the June 24 – 25 clinic on the USA Hockey website. Due to USA Hockey changing the registration website, the information for the August 5 – 6 clinic is available but coaches cannot register until sometime in June.

3. 2017 CT CEP team:

- a. grateful for Danny Murphy's outstanding service during past two seasons
- b. in the process of finding his replacement

Thank you,

Bruce Wolanin

YTD CHC ATTENDANCE 2/16-2/17

These are the rules regarding meeting attendance & good standing:

Article III Meetings

- 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.
- 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.
- The Annual Meeting shall be held in April, place and date to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 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**

	3/1/2016 *	3/22/2016	4/26/2016	5/24/2016	6/28/2016	8/23/2016	9/27/2016	10/25/2016	11/15/2016	12/13/2016	1/24/2017	2/28/2017	11 Consecutive Meetings Total Absences	Attendance Percentage
Avon		A											1	90.91%
Central	A*	A - Good Standing by Appeal							A	A			2	81.82%
Ct Barons													0	100.00%
CT Northern Lights	A*	Good Standing by Appeal					A		A			A	3	72.73%
CT Polar Bears	A*	A	Good Standing by Appeal										0	100.00%
CT Riverhawks					A								1	90.91%
CT Wolfpack	A*	A	Good Standing by Appeal					A					1	90.91%
Darien		A											1	90.91%
East Haven													0	100.00%
Echo													0	100.00%
Enfield		A			A								2	81.82%
Gr NH	A*	A	A			Good Standing Attendance							0	100.00%
Greenwich Blues	A*								A				1	90.91%
Greenwich Skate	Good Standing Attendance						A		A				2	81.82%
Griffin	A*	A	A			Good Standing Attendance	A			A			2	81.82%
Hamden												A	1	90.91%
Kent	Good Standing Attendance	A	A				A		A			A	5	54.55%

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Mid Fairfield													0	100.00%
New Canaan	A*									A			1	90.91%
Northeast		A							A	A			3	72.73%
Northwestern										A			1	90.91%
Pawling		Good Standing by Appeal			A								1	90.91%
Putnam													0	100.00%
Ridgefield													0	100.00%
Salisbury	A*	Good Standing by Appeal					A	A				A	3	72.73%
Shoreline Sharks													0	100.00%
Simsbury	A*	Good Standing by Appeal								A			1	90.91%
Shoreline Sharks													0	100.00%
So Windsor										A			1	90.91%
Southeastern		A											1	90.91%
Southern								A					1	90.91%
Stamford		A	A			Good Standing Attendance	A		A			A	3	72.73%
Wallingford													0	100.00%
Watertown			A										1	90.91%
West Hartford	A*									A			1	90.91%
West Haven													0	100.00%
Western					A								1	90.91%
Whalers		A								A			2	81.82%
Wizards													0	100.00%
Yale								A					1	90.91%