

New England District, Presidents and Directors Meeting
 May 3, 2014
 Crowne Plaza, Nashua, NH

Attendees:

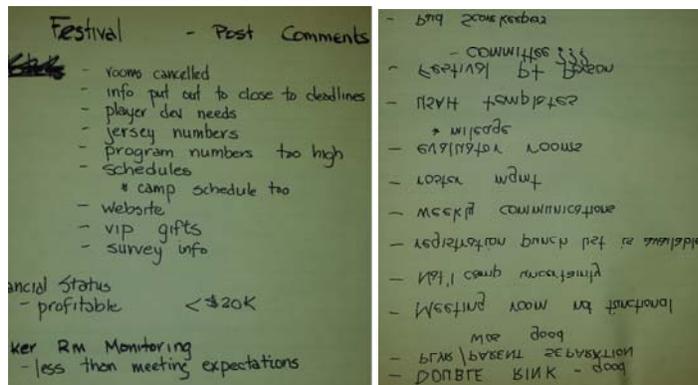
Brian Evans-Mongeon, Secretary	Bob Crawford, Director
Maurice Rosales, VT President	Richard Oliver, Director
Tom Rogers, NH President	Cheri Bonawitz, Director
Bob Larence, RI President	Keith Barrett, Director
Chris Washburn, ME President	Tom Regan, CT President

Guests:

Dwayne Staples
 Sue McCullough
 Mike McCullough
 Deb Powell
 Jim Torterella
 Dave Venditti
 Bill Leidt
 Jen Holsten
 Jeff Thompson
 Art Blakeslee
 Chuck Wilkerson

Minutes:

1. Director Barrett called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM. Director Barrett was asked to chair the meeting as Mr. Meakem is unable to attend due to emergency needs.
2. Director Barrett moved to go into Executive Session at 8:05 AM to discuss organizational issues, seconded.
3. Director Barrett moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:13 AM. There was no action taken.
4. Director Barrett presented the agenda for the morning session.
5. Tom Rogers and Dwayne Staples shared their thoughts on hosting of the New England District Festival this year.
 - a. Slides 1 & 2 – This slide presents the comments relating to the strengths and weaknesses of the 2014 NED Festival in NH.



- b. Slide 3 – This slide represents the list of Parking Lot items identified in discussions.

Parking Lot

- 7 Roster Management
 - streamlining
 - better communications between all parties
-
- Ref's
- NO STATE JKTS / NED FESTIVAL INSTEAD

c. Slides 4 and 5 – This slide presents the arguments for holding the Festival and some issues relating to not holding the Festival. After deciding the Festival was worthwhile, the group identified points needing further discussion.

WHY FESTIVAL?

- EOV
- MONEY MAKER *IT'S SPECIAL!*
- EVALUATION
- FIRST OPPT TO PLAY COMPETITIVE
- EMOTION & MENTAL GROWTH
- POOLS TO FILL CAMPS
- SURVEY RESPONSES POSITIVE * 1 NEGATIVE
- MONEY IS PLVR DEV
- W/OUT: HOW DO YOU SELECT?

FESTIVAL - YES!

- DIFFERENTIATE FROM OTHERS
- CALENDAR ?
- COMMUNICATE VALUE
- CAMPS FULL

d. Slides 6 through 15 highlight the points and discussions relating items needing specific attention in moving forward in 2015.

FESTIVAL CHANGE

- DROP 12s (AGE STRUCTURE)
- CALENDAR
- COORDINATOR & APPL COORD
- DROP PROG BOOK
- ONLINE PRESENCE
- HOTELS
- CENTRAL LOCATION - ONE!
- EVALUATOR STAFF
- MILEAGE
- PLVR SOLICITATION
- ROSTER MGMT
- DATA MGMT
- LOCKER RM MGMT
- TIME LINE
- EVAL FEEDBACK

AGE STRUCTURE

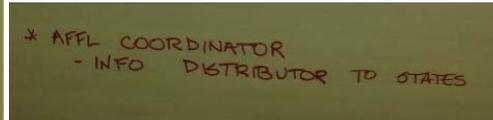
- 12 YO EXPERIENCE - KEEP
- INDIVIDUAL STATES - X
- SPLIT / MIX - ✓
- 13 YO ALSO
- COACHING
 - Develop Sub Line of RESPONSIBILT
 - LOCKER RM MANAGEMENT
- OTHER AGE LEVELS
 - GRID WORKS - ✓

ADD 15 AT LARGE - ✓

The group decided to keep 12 and 13 year olds in the event and mixing them like the other age groups. Coaches need guidelines on responsibilities including locker room management. There was discussion and approval to add the 15 at-large participants with irrelevance to the individual states.



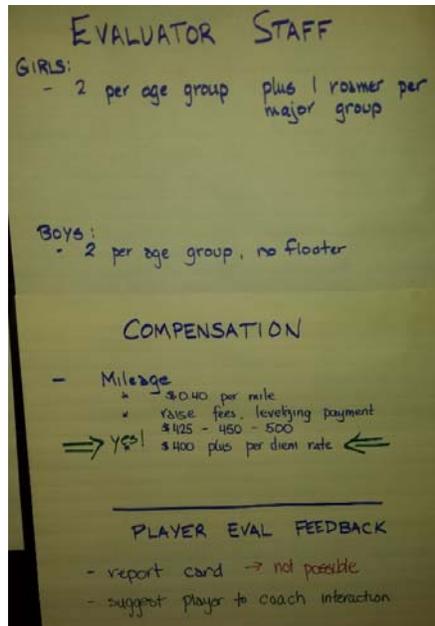
The group debated when to hold the Festival and it was deemed that the best date is (in 2015) March 20-22. Due to Easter and the National Championships, Festival dates can't probably set to the same weekend each year and needs to be looked at annually. There was discussion on how this would impact other tournaments for the region.



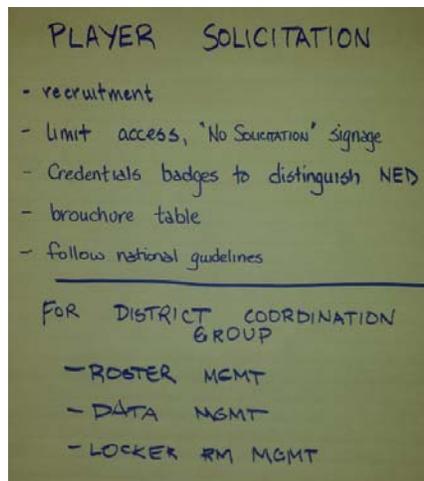
The group that a strong coordinator was needed to take care of the Festival needs going forward and that a new job description was needed. President Rosales will take on the effort to identify the coordinator's needs and capabilities. The group also discussed and affirmed that having state affiliate coordinators were also needed to support the District Coordinator.



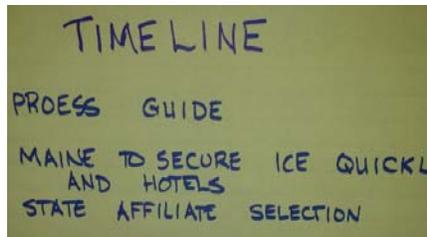
The group debated where the program book was needed to continue. The overwhelming view was that the program was outdated and needed to be converted into some kind of online presence. Hotels were next in discussion. The group debated the pros and cons for dealing with this item and decided that the district would identify hotels, room blocks, and post information to all states for accommodations. The individual states would individually determine how to handle hotels for their contingents.



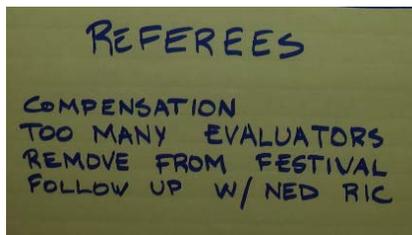
It was decided that Evaluator Staff would be slightly different for the boys and girls. Both would have 2 per each age group; but the girls would have an additional roaming staff member for the major age groups. The group decided to keep the compensation rate at \$400 per person with a per diem to provide some additional compensation to provide for equity across the festival and camps. It was decided that there would not be any player evaluation feedback from the Festival; but the suggestion was to encourage parent to coach interaction one on one.



The group decided that player solicitation at the Festival has to stop and discussed several methods to limiting access by the people just entering the locker rooms. The group encouraged the creation of a Festival committee, being led by the District Coordinator, with membership from the individual states and support from the District Registrar and others to handle roster, data, and locker room management.



For planning purposes, it was felt that the USAH National Championship guidebook would provide excellent guide for the coordinator and their group. Maine indicated that they would quickly procure the hotels and ice time needed for the 2015 Festival. Each state was encouraged to identify their state affiliate coordinator soon.



There were concerns expressed about the evaluation of referees at the Festival. It was suggested that such evaluations may need to be dropped during the event. The group felt that they needed to discuss the concerns with the District RIC prior to taking any action.

The Festival discussion was then concluded and the Presidents and Directors continued to meet alone to discuss other matters as identified below.

6. There were discussions on an upcoming appointment and the proposed look-up lines rule. Ms. Bonawitz indicated that she would provide insight onward to USAH on the district's sentiments on these points.
7. The morning session was completed and the meeting was recessed at 12:02 PM for lunch.
8. The meeting was resumed at 12:35 PM.
9. The group discussed three proposals that are being presenting to and vetting at the Annual Congress of USA Hockey.
 - a. Junior geographic limitations: Bob Crawford talked to the proposal. He indicated that it would support programs in a geographic basis alternatively from the existing league basis.
 - b. For Youth Council implications:
 - i. Establishment of a Tier 1 Committee: This proposal is designed to mitigate the significance of leagues over affiliates.
 - ii. Reestablish the 12U National Championships and 10U Regional Championships: the group felt this topic needs more discussion and further vetting.
10. The morning discussions were concluded 1:12 PM and the afternoon session began at the same time. Additional attendees are: Art Blakeslee, Chuck Wilkerson, and Jeff Thompson.
11. Director Oliver lead the discussion on Tournaments discussion.
 - a. Eliminating Gate fee: Mr. Washburn made a motion to eliminate the gate fee and raise the tournament fee by \$300 for all tournaments. Mr. Regan seconded. Voted unanimous.
 - b. Adding Tier 2 Sectional Tournament: Tabled to the Summer meeting

- c. Moving tournament dates: With the setting of the 2015 Festival, Bantams and Girls would be held on March 13-15, Nationals on 26-30th, Squirts and Pee Wees to the last weekend in March.
 - d. Hotel rooms: There was discussion involving room blocks versus affiliates securing room. It was suggested that we follow the Festival method. The Tournament Committee was charged to come up with a hotel policy for action at the Summer Meeting.
 - e. Tournament rules: The Tournament Committee was charged to come up with identical set of rules for tournaments.
 - f. Random draw: There were discussions on the option to use random draw for seeding of teams in the various tournaments.
 - g. Website: The website will be set up for the various templates for each type of tournament.
 - h. There was a discussion about match penalties.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully;
Brian Evans-Mongeon
Secretary