

New England District Winter Meeting  
January 31, 2014

Pres & Dir Meeting: (3:00 PM)

Attendees:

Mike Meakem, Managing Director  
Brian Evans-Mongeon, Secretary  
Tom Regan, CT President  
Keith Barrett, Director  
Maurice Rosales, VT President  
Tom Rogers, NH President  
Cheri Bonawitz, Director  
Chris Washburn, ME President  
Bob Crawford, Director  
Richard Oliver, Director  
Matt Daigle, RIC  
Bob Larence, RI President  
Bill Leidt, Girls/Women's Coordinator

Meeting was called to order at 3:25 PM

- Mike Meakem reviewed the agenda for the weekend.
- Mike Meakem presented some of the District's financial statements and there was some discussion on various items.
- Matt Daigle, RIC, gave a report on his duties since assuming the RIC role. He indicated that he is beginning to learn how each state operates and coming up with a standardized approach. There was a question brought up the need for referees to have completed SafeSport requirements. After discussion, it was decided to monitor the situation for this year.
- Bill Leidt gave a report on the development of girls hockey in New England. He is looking to have state coordinators on growing the girl hockey programs. He mentioned that New England's allocation numbers are declining. The group discussed issues on strengthening the development going forward and not relying on the historic structure.

General Meeting: (no attendance taken)

- Called to order at 7:11 PM by Mike Meakem, Managing Director.
- The participants introduced themselves.
- Managing Director Mike Meakem made an opening statement about the winter meeting and reviewed the agenda items.
- Mike Dargin, Manager of Youth Hockey Development for the Boston Bruins, talked about how the Bruins are interested in helping youth hockey in New England. He presented how the Bruins would like to make their Mini 1 on 1 competition into a regional fun event. He also mentioned that the Bruins will be conducting their fall coaches symposium will be continuing this year.
- Kevin Kavanaugh and Keri Allan from Mass Hockey presented highlights of what their program is holding this year. They talked about how they maintained their exemption for full ice but made changes toward the USAH new standard; mentioned about how their step up works and what it won't do; and talked about how Mass Hockey has changed and will be further enhancing their programs and associations. The group had an overall discussion on

- Matt Daigle, District Referee in Chief started his position in August 2013. He talked about the changes that will be upcoming on referee education. Going forward, on-ice training, background checks, and SafeSport will become required for all referees. He mentioned how the program is taking a look at recruitment of and retaining referees.
- Bob Crawford and Cheri Bonawitz presented on Junior hockey. The discussion covered topics on the alignment of junior hockey, new programs, dormant, and relocations.
- Jim Nolan, ADM coordinator for New Hampshire, presented some thoughts on how ADM is helping programs.
- Roger Grillo, who couldn't be present for the meeting, emailed some notes to Mike Meakem. The notes included notices on Frozen Fenway and Hockey Across America.
- Ryan Hardy, a NTP representative, offered some comments on the national team development program.
- Keith Barrett talked about the Youth Council.

#### Presidents and Directors (continued)

- The group discussed the festival structure going forward.
- Debbie McQuilkin joined the meeting to discuss what is happening with disabled hockey within the District.
- The meeting adjourned to continue the General Meeting.

#### General Meeting (continued)

- Larry Rocha reviewed the coach training activities since the last meeting. He talked about the high performance clinics that occurred and about upcoming similar clinics. Goals for the coming year are a newsletter to go along with the facebook page that was put together. He also highlighted what is going on with coaching credentials.
- Dr Peter Kriz, special guest sports medicine physician, and Emilie Dolan, former player, presented some thoughts on dealing with concussions. The focus for changes will be based upon actual data experiences and will promote for certain rule recommendations. Dr Kriz indicated that reports are showing that 41 days are necessary to recover from concussions driven by hockey play. Reports also show that neck strengthening is demonstrating positive results. He recommends: body checking skill development, integrate the Fair Play program, enforce rules pertaining to head contact and dangerous play, improve recognition and management of concussions, roster/schedule changes, and prevention strategy.
- Committee reports:
  - Women's/Girls: Presented by Bill Leidt and Joe?. They talked about the festival tryouts, upcoming Olympics, national development camps for girls will be in July, and upcoming tournaments.
  - Registrars: Sue McCullough spoke on roster changes, CyberSport is going to be online system improving the ease of use, and unclaimed registrants. There was a discussion on residency.
  - Tournaments: Richard Oliver presented highlights on tournament discussions. Mike Meakem announced that there will be some philosophical discussions on the interplay between festival and regional/sectional tournaments.
  - Festival: Dwayne Staples and Ray Morgan informed the group on this year's festival plans.
  - Disabled Hockey: Deb McQuilkin spoke to what is going on with their programs and achievements, including the Para-lympics. She is interested in finding state leaders for the northern New England states.

- Financial report: David Fontaine highlighted the current status of the district's financial conditions. Mike Meakem provided supplemental information on the revenues and expenses. It was mentioned that the District accounts will be reviewed by USAH this year.
- Nominating Committee: Mike Meakem presented the current status and plans for this year's elections.
- SafeSport: Cheri Bonawitz talked about what is currently going on with the program. She asked to have any state who becomes aware of a situation pass it along to her. She also commented on the need for SafeSport training for referees for the upcoming state/regional/sectional tournaments.
- Next meeting dates: Mike Meakem suggested meeting dates that follow the USAH meetings by 2 or 3 weeks. District Summer meeting is going to the weekend of June 27.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted;  
Brian Evans-Mongeon  
District Secretary