



**Regular Monthly Meeting of the
Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors**

Date: April 6, 2016

Call To Order at: 7:19 PM

Present:

Brendan McCollam, Co-President Isabel Boulanger, Co-President John Browne, Vice-President Luisa Britton, Treasurer Cynthia Stango, Secretary Brien Merrill, Registrar Dana Colwell, Communications
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Absent:

Matt Dutton, CHC Representative

Treasurer's Report:

Account balances communicated We have not received the cash for all of the credit card payments that have been made to date. Need to find out how frequently sweeps are done into our account. 1 check outstanding - \$8,300 for extra ice time needed at the end of the season for Pee Wee A, Pee Wee B, and Squirt A practices. One more outstanding bill to pay – the balance of the CHC tournament dues approximately \$2k to \$3k.
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Old Business:

Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
March Minutes	Not available - will present next month	
Introduction	Introduction of all new and old board members	
Tryouts	Board agrees that Doug Ballard and the rest of the on-ice coaches, did a great job planning and running tryouts this year. The board would like to form a small committee to revamp the tryout process in the future. Doug Ballard would be the BOD's first choice to spearhead that committee/process. Some suggestions: - Players should be grouped according to skill level from the beginning so the evaluators have a focus.	Speak with Doug Ballard about spearheading the committee to revamp the tryout/evaluation process.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training/Communication with the evaluators is needed. Prior to tryouts they should be walked through the evaluation sheet and told what is expected of them and what we are looking for in players. - Coaching contracts should include the requirement that they have to submit satisfactory evaluations in order to receive their last payment for the season. - Copies of the coach's formal evaluations at the end of the season should be given to the parents as well as the independent evaluators. 	
<p>Supplemental Tryout</p>	<p>Adding a supplemental tryout in an attempt to capture players that are unhappy with where they placed in other programs. The tryout will be an hour and a half long and be for new players only. Placements from March tryouts will not be revisited. All levels with the exception of Bantam will be included. The tryout will mirror the March tryouts and be comprised of skills stations/drills with a scrimmage at the end. The fee will be \$25. If we still don't get the players we need (especially for Mite B and Squirt B) we will post openings on the CHC website. Ice time for this supplemental tryout will be approximately \$600. Targeting the week of April 18th for this event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact Doug Ballard and Danny Allen to see if they will run the tryout. - Secure ice time at DIA - Post the information on the Western website - Publicize via word of mouth, CHC, Wesco, DIA mass distribution
<p>2016-2017 Head Coaches</p>	<p>The Board is pleased with the makeup of the coaches this season. The goal is to have all non-parent coaches from the squirt level and above. Parent assistant coaches are acceptable. With the exception of Doug Ballard we have accomplished that this season. There are 6 new coaches who have all played at a high level and have already demonstrated a desire to make a difference and get involved (i.e. Pee Wee B coach wants to start a dry land training program). Potential concerns/risks – they are young and some have no previous coaching experience. In order to mitigate those risks we will rely on the new Coaching Director, Bobby Stearns, to be on the ice overseeing various practices, creating guidelines as to what skills players should master prior to moving to the next level, and providing structured practice outlines for the coaches at all levels. In addition, the BOD will handle any disciplinary issues that come up during the season. Danny Allen is currently interviewing for a new position. Should he accept he will no longer coach for Western. A backup plan is in place whereas existing coaches will be shifted around to new teams resulting in an open position at the Squirt B level. The BOD is confident that position can be filled. A social for the coaching staff is set to occur in the next month or so.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post bios on the Western website for all coaches. - Practice plans for the coaches to be developed and distributed - Skill guidelines by level to be developed and distributed - Follow up with Danny Allen on next season - Plan social for the coaching staff



Banquet	<p>Positive notes - venue, Food, seating arrangements, decorations. General consensus is that we would use the venue again. Learning points – more bartenders needed during the first hour. Alternatively a cocktail hour could be utilized next year. Audio/visual issues had to be solved up front. One picture from the banquet is missing. Working on getting it back.</p>	- Reclaim the missing banquet photo

New Business:

Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
Team Commitments	<p>4 – Mite B – need 6/8 more Mite Bs 12 – Mite A 7 – Squirt B - 5 players/2 goalies 13 – Squirt A 10 – Pee Wee A – 9 players/1 goalie 12 – Pee Wee B – 11 players/1 goalie 18 – Bantam A - 17 Players/1 goalie</p> <p>1 spot left on the Bantam team. Order of acceptance is how the calls came in. Bantams will not be included in the supplemental tryouts. Projection to the 2017/2018 season is that there will still only be one Bantam team.</p>	<p>- Use supplemental tryouts to fill more spots on the Mite B and Squirt B level. - Fill final spot on the Bantam team</p>
Coaching Director Position	Filled – Bobby Stearns, Joel Barlow Head Coach. If we have an issue where we need his input we will request his attendance otherwise he is not required to attend monthly BOD meetings. He does not get a vote.	
CHC Report	Last minute CHC informal session called for tonight. Matt is attending the get together/discussion. Currently our A teams are Tier III, our B teams are Tier IV. CHC discussing how the Tier declaration process should be handled in the future.	
Fundraising 2016-2017	<p>John will chair the fundraising committee for the 2016/2017 season. Last season we raised \$12k - \$14k. Potential committees this season: Fundraising, sponsorships, events, scholarship, marketing/advertising, hospitality, western wear, equipment swap.</p> <p>Summer event – block off the street or top level of the parking lot to kick off the season. Jamboree type event with local area teams.</p> <p>Brendan has a contact at the NHL that he is going to work with to see if we can get something going for a fundraiser in Danbury for Western.</p>	- Brendan and Isabel to send out email request for volunteers for the various committees we hope to establish this season.
Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
2016-2017 Budget	John to prepare and present at the May meeting.	



	Discuss with DIA if we can get training week ice time donated again. First practice estimated for 9/13/16. Potentially host a Thanksgiving tournament.	
Promotions	<p>Potential subcommittee to be formed. Melissa Tunno to assist by distributing information cards at local establishments. Cross promotion with DIA and the Western program. Need to increase numbers.</p> <p>Reach out to Wesco and see if they would support the program in exchange for us placing a patch with their logo on all of our uniforms.</p>	- Reach out to Wesco to discuss donation/continued support
General	<p>General conversation with CHC and other organizations on how we can stop losing kids to other programs. Potentially have all try outs on the same day.</p> <p>Don't sign releases until an entire family bill/receivable has been paid. Cathy to assist.</p> <p>Review/analyze the costs per team and how many players you need per team to cover costs. Analyze how much we should be charging per team. Would like to work in a scholarship fund into the budget.</p> <p>Tournaments for 2016/2017 season - Evaluate which tournaments our teams should participate in this season. What should the timing of those tournaments be (i.e. Columbus Day vs. Thanksgiving tournament)? Potentially let teams decide which tournaments they want to go to individually at parents' expense.</p> <p>Bi-laws need to be reviewed and updated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost per team analysis to be completed - Decide on tournaments this season and timing of those tournaments - Bi-laws to be distributed to BOD for review and comment

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday May 11, 2016 – 7:00 PM – 219 Greenwood Ave, Bethel

Motion to Adjourn by: Isabel ; Seconded: Cindy

In favor: 7 **Opposed:** 0

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Cynthia Stango, Secretary

Miscellaneous Notes:

