



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

Date: November 9, 2016

Call to Order at: 7:05 PM

Present:

Brendan McCollam, Co-President Isabel Boulanger, Co-President John Browne, Vice-President Cynthia Stango, Secretary Matt Dutton, CHC Representative Luisa Britton, Treasurer Dana Colwell, Communications Brien Merrill, Registrar Bobby Stearns, Coaching Director Rob Forbes, Safe Sport Rep Tim Hanlon, Bantam Coach

Absent:

Old Business:

Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
Minutes	Brien motioned to accept the October minutes, Dana seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cindy to format the minutes to remove all confidential information in order to post them on the WCYHA website
Open Forum	Bobby Stearns, Rob Forbes, and Tim Hanlon attended the meeting to speak with the BOD regarding an issue on the Bantam team. A Bantam player, would like to leave Western to join a high school team. As it is a high school team the player does not need a release. That is the plan so no release is required. If they proceed we will comply. BOD expressed the following concerns; a coach or a locker room monitor needs to be in the room or near the room always. The BOD would have appreciated hearing about the situation the night the incident occurred not a few days later.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brendan is going to follow up with the family just to make sure everyone is on the same page- Brendan to communicate with the organization once again to encourage people to use the comment button on the website and keep



	<p>Bobby Stearns likes how the situation was dealt with as a team/family. Now that someone has left the program it may be a good opportunity to have each coach reach back out to their teams regarding bullying, swearing, locker room behavior. Reiterate that this is a family where we all need to watch out for each other and speak up about it. This type of atmosphere needs to be cultivated. The whole organization needs to work on this. It is important for the kids to understand what situation they are in and how to handle themselves with respect and dignity.</p> <p>John doesn't understand why a release was granted. He believes it sets a bad precedence. If they signed the contract, they are paid in full, and want to leave we are now obligated to provide the release. Per the CHC rules we may be required to give them the release. John is hesitant because he doesn't want anyone else to mid-season program hop. Brendan feels that we would have to present each situation to the CHC and ask them if they are going to allow the release or not.</p>	<p>the lines of communication open between the BOD and the parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brien to look at the contract we have parents sign to see if it says they are required to "play" or "pay" for the entire season. -
<p>CHC Report</p>	<p>Mite redeclarations – cross ice vs. full ice. Initial process is flawed and all the Mites are considered full ice currently. Hopefully in the next week or so the situation will be corrected.</p> <p>Two B players in Mites are going to be squirts next year. Matt wants to give them the opportunity to play up during the season so they are prepared for tryouts next year.</p> <p>If a kid gets suspended they need to serve that suspension. Team are moving players up to take the place of the kids that are suspended wearing their jersey. This can't happen. It is imperative that only coaches that are on the sticker can be on the bench. A coach not on a roster cannot be on the ice for practice or on the bench during the game. If that happens coaches can get suspended. It is most likely an insurance issue.</p> <p>Goalies can't bring goalies down from A to B teams or change age groups. But in an urgent situation call Mary or Kathy to confirm before you do it. Has to be pre approved before they play.</p> <p>All coaches must complete safe sport in order to be eligible to participate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matt to check why Brendan is not getting messages - Matt to check with Mary if we can write in coaches on the stickers during game as long as they are on the official online roster. - Riley needs to be added as an alternate on the Pee Wee roster - Brendan to reach out to all coaches to see which coaches are signed up for which classes



	<p>Mite issue coming up again. The talk was they were getting rid of all full ice next year. But they feel they might get a bigger exemption next year to play more full ice games.</p> <p>USA Hockey rule change – They may remove checking from Bantams but move it up to Midgets. There is a link on the USA Hockey web page where you can log a question about any rules or rule changes.</p> <p>Proposal for the huskies to create a Tier V program. First 8 tier 2 next 12 tier 3 all the rest default to 12 Tier IV. After that they are in a general bucket. They want to create a Tier V bracket as well. This would be for all levels for the state tournament.</p> <p>Jerry President of CHC is making sure we all follow the rules and regulations. Door is always open. Trying to keep our program in the right place.</p> <p>CHC rankings are out. Have to go to Tier IV. Put in squirt. Use drop down and use 0 and they will all come up. Last ranking comes out Feb 12th. That is when you will be placed in the tournament. The ranking system seems to be very active and seems to be very accurate.</p>	
<p>Financial Report</p>	<p>Account balances were communicated Upcoming expenses include One more payment to the rink in December. The November payment is not out of that balance either approx \$28k. Pro Crease is one invoice for the whole year that we pay at one time. Need to add Thursday December practices. Bantams and Squirt A have to play Silver Sticks so we can give those ice times back. We will need additional three sheets of ice in December in Thursday. Nov 22nd 7:50 slot to give back. Thursday before Christmas (22nd) we don't have any ice time. We keep track and then settle up at the end of the season with the last payment.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to buy another set of boards from Avon for \$2,000. Brendan asked Kevin and Jody if they wanted it. They said we would split it with us if we wanted them. We have decided not to do that but rather use elsewhere.</p> <p>Open Receivables – Midget player that came in and played one time but decided not to play. He bypassed the system. We need to delete him from the system so he is not showing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John to send Kathy a copy of the requested minutes and the agenda.



	<p>up as a receivable.</p> <p>A current family receivable need to be adjusted</p> <p>A \$200 receivable was identified that may be a referral credit.</p> <p>Another receivable needs to be removed from the system as a credit was received.</p> <p>Old family receivable – John was never approached by the family to waive tuition. Therefore John feels we should be able to recover that receivable. There is nothing in the minutes stating that was waived. John is going to send the minutes to Kathy to show that this was never discussed. Technically that player never received a release therefore they should forfeit the games they have played in.</p>	
2016/2017 Budget Updates	Western is currently under budget but that is just due to timing.	
Survey Monkey	<p>All BOD members to look at the results and formulate a plan on what to do. Brendan and Dana to summarize some of the hot topics for the rest of the BOD so we can move forward on an action plan. Brendan trying to respond to any questions that have been posed. Brendan to reach out to the arena to discuss issues with the rink (i.e. the Liberty boards don't close anymore as the are bowed, healthy food options, state of the locker room). It is a safety issue now. Bantam parent got hit by a puck this past weekend. We want to share the information back to the organization. Tell them what the concerns are. All changes do not need to be organization wide. We can implement a little at a time over time. Example major minor structure or Tier II team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan and Dana to come up with a list of issues - Brendan to talk to the arena about certain reoccurring issues.
ESPN	John will get back to the board shortly. They are currently at the Pee Wee B level. Story line has changed to we know we are not too good but we are still having fun. The money behind the production came to watch a couple games and saw a pretty bad loss. They will come back soon to see more games. They are still trying to get the money behind the show to do the Pilot. Once they have the money they will go to the arena. The Pee Wee Bs are all on board.	-
CHC Squirt Tier II & III Tournaments	Matt talked to the Celebirtis about fundraising and marketing. They are on board to help with the event. CHC is the host of the tournament. But Western can do any type of fundraising	-



	they want as long as Jody approves. Chuck a Puck. Two Steps. Team baskets to raffle off. Trip to a hockey game.	
Disciplinary Actions	Pee Wee A player coming down. Nothing happened no suspension	-
Parent Night Out/Raffle	Tickets distributed. Meeting next week to make final arrangements. Tuesday the 29 th to collect the raffle and ticket money. Dana to send out the signup sheets and promote the event. Prizes are set for the raffle. We need to purchase the prizes so they are ready to go.	-
DIA Thanksgiving Tournament Update	Squirt B – Western and 2 more teams Pee Wee B – Western and 2 more teams Brendan to follow up with Jody again. We have posted the tournament information on the CHC website but it was taken down.	-
Locker Room Renovation	Project is not yet underway. Two or three volunteers have not put together a pricing list. Tim Stango to come up with an estimate for materials. Maybe the rink would barter with us.	-
Silver Sticks Tournament	We have gotten all three team schedules. Squirts and Bantams have entered the games in the system. Pee Wee has not been entered yet. Isabel to forward to Nick Tunno to enter. Make sure we update the ice schedule as we are going to miss some practices as a result of the tournament.	-
Holiday Coaches Bonuses	We mentioned in a previous meeting and wanted to revisit. Matt would like the Mite coaches to be considered. They aren't paid and they do the same amount of work. Isabel and Luisa to review the budget to see what we have available in the budget.	-
Sibling Discount Program		- CY5 to calc the discount based on current season and send to BOD to review

New Business:

Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
Travel Clinics/Western Offerings during Winter Break	Dana thinks we should offer travel program high end power skating or skills clinic. Three on three tournaments are popular. Maybe see if a Laura Stamm would come in for a Western sponsored clinic.	- Brendan to ask the arena if they have anything planned for the break
Challenge Cup Team Level	Another Bantam parent feels as though there is some division amongst the team. Brendan feels it is important to get the teams together more often to do off ice activities to get the	-



Activities	<p>teams to be stronger. Last year some fun events were set up for the kids to do team building activities. Isabel will book the space needed if the managers communicate what they need. Matt will reach out to UMass Lowell team to see if some Western players can catch a game. Challenge Cup gives out some ideas and the local college teams may play as well.</p>	
Pee Wee (A/B) Practice/ Game	<p>The development of the Pee Wee B team – John observed a practice and doesn’t feel that the practice was being run properly and the ice is not being used efficiently. A lot of Pee Wee A parents approached John about players not passing the puck. Three parents separately approached John. It should be brought to Josh’s attention. As a first time coach we need to communicate what parents are saying. Bobby Stearns is set to be on the ice every Thursday night to observe.</p>	-
General/Misc.	<p>Try Hockey for free – make sure all the equipment in the arena is in the locker rooms as the people at the event think all equipment is free. Dana to send an email to the rest of the organization telling them to watch their equipment.</p> <p>Titan game volunteer information to go out next week.</p> <p>Plans for next year have to be determined, set and communicated to the organization sooner rather than later (i.e. sibling discount, coaches on board)</p> <p>We should create a disciplinary committee for next season. One BOD member should sit on the committee and the rest be Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam level coaching coordinator instead of a Coaching Director. You take that salary and move it over to the coordinator who is in charge of communicating back to the BOD. John would like to solicit input on some of the ideas we want to move forward with.</p>	-

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday December 14, 2016 – 7:00 PM – 219 Greenwood Ave, Bethel

Motion to Adjourn Brienby: ; MATTSeconded:

In favor: 6 **Opposed:** 0

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Cynthia Stango, Secretary