



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

Date: June 9, 2016

Call To Order at: 7:15 PM

Present:

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

Matt Dutton, CHC Representative Brien Merrill, Registrar

Old Business:

Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
Minutes	Dana motioned to accept the April minutes, Isabel Seconded the motion. Dana motioned to accept the May minutes, Isabel seconded the motion. Both sets of minutes were approved.	- Cindy to format the minutes so all confidential information is removed in order for them to be posted to the WCYHA website
CHC Report	Brendan read the CHC report in Matt's absence. Chuck Wilkerson is the new CHC Vice President. Matt is not sure if he is going to remain on the tournament committee now that he has taken on this new role. Matt has expressed his interest in joining that committee to the CHC. He believes it will help to have someone from Western on the committee to express opinions about competition and how tournaments should be run. Sunday August 13 th – The Famous Hanson brothers from Slap Shot Hockey will be at the disabled hockey fundraiser being organized by the CHC.	- Brendan to attend the CHC President's meeting in August



	<p>CHC player release update - 371 releases have been granted to date for the 2016/107 season. Of those releases approximately 30% are for players transferring to out of state teams that are not in the CHC. The CHC has identified this as a problem and are aware that they need to address the issue. There are 37 programs in the state which translates to approximately 10 players per organization leaving the CHC.</p> <p>USA Hockey update – USA Hockey is currently dealing with a “major issue” relating to a team in CO. There is currently a lawsuit pending which will most likely result in organization wide changes and updated regulations around coaching. The USA Hockey season officially starts Sept 1, 2016. New England is officially starting on or about August 19, 2016.</p> <p>Central CT Capitals has 7 Pee Wee teams this year. It is Western’s belief that the CHC should limit the amount of teams in a division that each organization should be permitted to field each season. It is time to have the discussion with the CHC. Something has to be done to keep fair play. Small to mid-size programs need to join forces to make a change.</p> <p>Brendan plans on attending the Presidents meeting in August. Brendan and John foresee issues with the new ranking system that is being introduced this season. Brendan hopes to learn more about this in August.</p>	
Financial Report	<p>Account balances were communicated Everything is currently paid. In May all remaining 2015/2016 invoices were paid including Pro Crease, CHC tourney fees and the IPH tryout fee. Never received a bill from DIA for the ice time used for the supplemental tryouts. The League Athletic deposit on 5/25/16 was \$19,839. The Western debit card is still in John’s name and the authorized signers on the WCYHA checking and money market accounts at People’s Bank are still John and Luisa. The passwords are currently being changed for the online bank accounts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isabel to contact People’s Bank to get updated signature cards listing her, Brendan and Luisa as authorized signers on the account. - The password for the online account to be updated. - Debit card to be handed over to Isabel and Brendan and John to be removed as a signer.
2016/2017 Budget Updates	<p>Joe Almeda compiled a financial analysis by team. It is helpful in detailing the breakeven point by team and should be utilized when creating a budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isabel to review and update the analysis so it can be compared to the 2016/2017 budget.
Team Commitments	<p>5 – Mite B registered – 5 open spots - 11 – Mite A registered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brien to add the Tuno family to the online



	<p>7 – Squirt B registered- 5 players/2 goalies – Danny has 2 potential recruits and Dana has 1 - need at least 2 more to field a team for the 2016/2017 season. Hoping for at least 2 additional on top of that to get to a total of 14 – 12 players/2 goalies.</p> <p>16 – Squirt A registered - 14 players/2 goalies 15 – Pee Wee A registered – 14 players/1 goalie 11 – Pee Wee B registered– 10 players/1 goalie – Danny has 2 girls that are prospects. Matt is talking to them tonight. 17 – Bantam A registered- 16 Players/1 goalie</p> <p>83 total players right now. Last year we had 96 at this point. We should be close to the same number. The goal is to get the Squirt B and Mite B team squared away within the next 30 days or we have to revisit the decision to keep the teams active for the season.</p> <p>Information on our Mite B and Squirt B teams have been posted on the CHC website. Danny from DIA is aware of the situation along with the Western parents who received a letter via email on 6/8/16.</p> <p>Bantam team is sending out team updates for open skate. Need to make sure that team understands that this is not a Western sponsored event and is additional cost to the families.</p> <p>John noted that CHC team sizes have been dwindling over the past few years due to the saturation in the number of teams in the CHC. Typically you are seeing single digit players and a couple goalies. As a result he believes that as long as you have 2 lines and a goalie you can field a team at any level.</p>	<p>roster for the Pee Wee A team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan to ask Wesco to post a flyer advertising the openings on our Mite B and Squirt B squads - Brendan to touch base with Danny the week of June 27th if we don't get the numbers we need. - Dana to post info on the CHC website regarding the Mite B and Squirt B team openings.
WCYHA Bylaws	Discussion was had regarding the new draft of the bylaws. Updates to the document are needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cindy to update the bylaws based on the BOD discussion. A new draft of the bylaws to be submitted for review and approval no later than the end of the month.

New Business:

Item	Discussion	Action/Motion
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<p>Game Jerseys</p>	<p>Need to start the process of ordering game jerseys for the 2016/2017 season. Turnaround time for the jerseys is approximately 8 weeks - 3-4 weeks to get the SP jerseys ordered and delivered to Wesco. After that they are brought to Vision design who does the embroidery, adds name plate and screen prints the number. Wesco will collect the money for us. Each player gets 2 pairs of socks and a home and away jersey. At the time the players pay for the jerseys they will pick top 3 numbers – they will be awarded based on availability and who gets there first. Smallest jersey should be youth Medium this year and players should bring their pads when they go to try on. We will create the sign-up sheet to be used by Wesco employees. Make sure to order extras that are blank. Potentially ask parents to donate their old jersey to give to younger kids that may join later. Jen Faircloth to handle that process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John to talk to Jen about the jersey order process. Start process by the end of next week. Cutoff should be first or second week of July. - Cindy to call/email Jen to see when she and Bridget can meet up with John at the arena to get the process started.
<p>Practice Jerseys/Socks</p>	<p>Blank practice jerseys (Montreal brand this year) are purchased through Wesco and delivered to Vision to screen print on our logo. The turnaround time is approx. 2 weeks on that as they are not personalized and there is no embroidery. Goalies all get goalie cut jerseys. Stick with the 4 colors per team. Shells need to be ordered as well to supplement the stock we currently have on hand in the storage unit. The turnaround time for shells is approximately 3 weeks as they are not personalized but still need to be sent to Vision to add the colonial embroidery. Potentially thinking of offering some sort of deal where a player can return their old, smaller set of shells in good condition for a \$10 off coupon for new shells. There is also a hidden button on the website for an equipment exchange. We could activate that and let people utilize the equipment exchange similar to Craig’s list. Typically we put Gotta Love CT Hockey on the back of the practice jerseys. This year we would like to offer local businesses the opportunity to donate money to the organization in exchange for advertising such as their name on the back of practice jerseys. Before we do that we should offer Wesco the option to put their name on the back of the shirt if they make a donation to the program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John and Brendan to go to the storage unit to see what inventory we have - Jen to research the cost associated with screen printing a business name on the back of a practice jersey. - Cindy to draft a version of a vendor sponsorship letter
<p>IPH</p>	<p>Need to make a decision on continuing this program or not. During the 2015/2016 season IPH came in on Tuesday nights for the upper level teams. They had a total of 6 sessions at a total cost of \$2400. Brendan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan and John to get feedback from the coaches at the social on Tuesday night regarding



	<p>would like to keep them on for one more year. Parents loved it at the squirt level. Kids worked hard and it was not too costly. If all coaches take it seriously and learn from what it being taught we can do it ourselves next year. If we the program after only one season parents will question why we did it in the first place. Some of the coaches didn't like it because it took away from what they were trying teach their teams as a whole. We can potentially do it based on level and tailor it to meet each individual team's needs. Bobby Stearns agreed with that plan of attack. In addition he liked the idea of dry land training at every level.</p>	<p>the IPH program and if they think it is beneficial.</p>
<p>2016/2017 Season Tournaments</p>	<p>Brendan is going to speak with Jodi and Kevin about hosting a Thanksgiving tournament at the arena. He want to get all the dates set up in the next 30 to 40 days.</p> <p>Need to get info to the parents</p> <p>Possible tournaments this season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marlborough for the Challenge Cup in Jan/Feb - Silver Sticks/Watertown (Mites only) or Haunted Shootout in Oct/November time frame - State tournament at the end of the season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan to speak with Jodi about hosting a tournament this season. - Put together a professional flyer to bring to the schedulers meeting in September - Brendan and John to talk to the coaches about tournament preferences
<p>Overdue Balances/Releases</p>	<p>Outstanding receivables for the 2016/2017 season currently stand at \$84,167. Isabel pulled an overdue/delinquent report showing the total due for receivables outstanding for over 90 days is approximately \$26k. Some names on the report are unknown to John or Luisa. There is no recourse for kids that are leaving Western to play for teams outside of the CHC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Luisa and Isabel to go through the over 90 day delinquent list to see if they are valid. If yes an email/letter will be drafted and sent to each family requesting payment.
<p>Promotions</p>	<p>Outside sponsorship – Local businesses would sponsor a team in exchange for their link being placed on our website, their name in our year end banquet program, and their business name being screen printed on the back of a teams practice jersey.</p> <p>Professional information flyer – Update with Western Jr. Colonials on one side and in house league on the other. Post them along with posters around the arena, Wesco and other local sporting goods stores to spread the word about our programs. John had them made in previous years at infinity printing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan to speak to Kevin about joint fundraising. DIA pays for it and Western distributes it. - Luisa to follow up with former Western family to retrieve the canvas print they took from the banquet. - Isabel to bring the other canvas prints to the arena to have them hung



	<p>GottaLoveCTHockey - If Western hosts a free hockey day in Danbury GottaLoveCTHockey has agreed to post the information on their website</p> <p>Checking and Goalie clinic promos being sent to Western teams on behalf of the DIA.</p>	<p>up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dana to send out DIA checking and goalie clinic info to all Western families.
General/Misc	<p>This season the BOD needs to support the schedulers a bit more than in past years. This is due to the new ranking system CHC has put in place for the 2016/2017 season. Schedulers will be provided with a list of teams that should be contacted. This will ensure we are in a good position come the end of the season and competing with other teams that are at the same competitive level as Western.</p> <p>Banners - Squirt B championship banner to be hung in the arena. It was noted that some of the Western banners are not uniform. We would like to change that as well as have two of each banner – 1 hanging in Liberty and 1 in Patriot. Vision has the template used to make banners in prior years.</p> <p>Western has a Twitter, Instagram and Facebook account that need to be updated. All pictures should be posted through Dana. That way we can control who posts to the sites. Facebook can have 3 people be the administrators.</p> <p>Meeting minutes should be posted to the website for public consumption. Player/family specific information should be removed for confidentiality reasons.</p> <p>Coaches meeting at Two Steps in Danbury on Tuesday June 14th. Cindy motioned to approve a stipend of \$500 for the meeting. Brendan second. Approved 4 Opposed 0. The same was approved for the Managers/schedulers meeting to be conducted in the near future.</p> <p>Brendan declared Division II for the Midgets in the hopes that it is the same as Tier 2. Need to respond by June 15th.</p> <p>CHC emails are not being received by the Presidents. They will look into it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan and John to compile a list of teams Western will be competitive with by level for distribution at the schedulers meeting. - Isabel to contact Vision for banner pricing. - Brendan to talk to Kevin about banner placement. - John to send Isabel banner information (i.e. team and the year they won) - John to give Dana all the passwords for social media sites. - Dana to start updating the Western website by Sept. 1st. Trying to make more information accessible to all Western members. - Isabel to set up a drop box account for the organization to store all electronic data. - Cindy to modify April, May, June minutes so they are able to be posted to the website. - Set date for schedulers and mangers meetings
General/Misc Cont.	<p>Brendan and Matt met with the Coaching Director. Highlights are as follows:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brendan to Provide Isabel with the contact



	<p>Dry land training pregame is a must. Off ice players need to stretch on their own. There should be set drills to start so when they get on the ice they are ready to skate.</p> <p>Bobby has mixed feeling about the ADM philosophy. He plans on creating a Western practice manual which will start at Mite and move up from there. He likes Pro crease training and IPH ideas.</p> <p>Additional conversation was had regarding the tryout and evaluation procedures currently in place. The idea of having players only skate if they are trying to skip a level or make an initial team was brought up. All kids would pay the same fee. A con to this idea is that the coaches would want to see how the new kids skate with the old players.</p> <p>Not sure the relationship with the arena will change at all. We are still going to try and join forces with them. Brendan is going to talk to Kevin about some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockey day • Kickoff day in September which would happen on the Saturday after training week. There would be a jamboree/scrimmage for each team • More cross over events with DIA in the beginning of the season like a potential try hockey for free day. Potentially have Bruce Bennett and the Titans be a co-sponsor for the event. • Try goalie for a day in Danbury. Potentially co-sponsored by USA Hockey. • Potentially host a Mite jamboree for in Sept/Oct or a Thanksgiving tourney. • New co-branding propaganda which we can distribute or place at tables in the arena for folks to grab. Possibly have a dedicated area in the arena for us to display information about our team. • Western will do more to promote DIA events such as the 3 on 3 cross ice clinics. • See if there is any interest in buildouts to select locker rooms at DIA and the expectations around that. • Build out the upstairs area above the 	<p>information for all of the coaching staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isabel to send out the committee summary to the board for review and approval. Once approved it will be distributed to the entire organization.
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	<p>administrative offices for Western use.</p> <p>Nelba Marquez-Greene contacted Brendan to request a date for the Anna Grace project skate. The date is set on October 14th which is opening night for the Wolfpack. There will be reduced price tickets for the Western teams. Isaiah's team is going to be the blue line buddies that night. We will advertise for her.</p> <p>Committees – Isabel to email out the committee listing to the families as well as reach out to Jen Faircloth with some new Western wear ideas.</p>	

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday July 13, 2016 – 7:00 PM – 219 Greenwood Ave, Bethel

Motion to Adjourn by: Cindy; Seconded: Isabel

In favor: 7 **Opposed:** 0

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Cynthia Stango, Secretary

Miscellaneous Notes:
