

Stamford Youth Hockey Association

January 13, 2016 Membership Meeting

Board Members Present: Kevin Unger (KU), Chuck Stietzel (CS), Chris Berlingo (CB), Randy Samuelson (RS), John Nilsen (JN)

Start: 7:45pm

Tryout Schedules

- Dates announced and copies distributed to those present
- Will be posted on website

President Attending Practices and Games

- JN has been visiting many practices and games
- Happy with enthusiasm from coaches and players
- Kids seem to be having a good time
- Player on Stamford co-op team referred to SYHA in an article that indicated the strong bond players attained while part of the program.

Coach Evaluations and Applications

- Evaluation surveys will be sent to the membership this week
- JN is accepting coaches' applications for next year.
- Goal is to have coaches announced by February membership meeting

Membership Survey

- Response was good with ~200 received; more than last year
- Analysis to be presented at next meeting

Fundraising

- JN suggested charging more in tuition rather than having a large fundraising budget to meet.
- JN indicated minimum 15 skaters per team would help
- Skate-a-Thon
 - Sue Dwyer gave update and things are going well
 - Three sessions: Clinics and U8 House; Mite, Squirt and U12 House; PeeWee, Bantam, Midget
 - RS purchased Chuck-A-Pucks to do at event
 - T-Shirts and other merchandising will be available
 - Mark Rosetti to MC; John Ferris to provide music
- SYHA Raffle
 - Players will be asked to sell 5 - \$20 tickets
 - Drawing to be held at Skate-A-Thon
 - First prize is free tuition or \$3000, other prizes still being specified

Registrar Update

- Rosters are now locked for the season
- All coaches have been certified; some still need to complete level modules
- Coaches need to fill out W9's for tax filings

Hockey Director Positions

- JN indicated that the Board has felt that the membership has not gotten the value expected from the Hockey Director Position
- Bobby Pauls will remain Hockey Director through end of season but the plan is to replace it with a Hockey Committee consisting of 5 members covering the different divisions and House.
- Board is requesting feedback on the proposal
- Members asked what the Hockey Director functions are.
 - Run tryouts and acquire evaluators
 - Have regular coaches meetings
 - To enforce US Hockey ADM model
 - Work with House Coordinator and obtain House coaches
 - Run clinics
- Feedback from those present:
 - Booby ran good clinics, was not meeting with coaches regularly or attending practices/games of teams other than his own.
 - Most agreed that coaching a team and being the Hockey Directory would be a difficult thing.
 - Many thought that having only one person for the role would be better than a committee
 - Hockey Director should have an advanced level of hockey experience
 - Some thought using the money to pay per diem for clinics would be better value
 - Some worry about change leading into early tryouts
 - Concern that tryout guidelines are not publish and impact rules are not followed
 - New member indicated that SYHA was doing a much better job that the organization she came from in tryouts, communication and community.
- TCR made an error in giving us Thursday afternoon ice. LB had checked with them as soon as we got the contract in July and they did not indicate any issues. JN signed the contract in August.
- Practices will be need to be reshuffled to ensure all teams get the right amount of practice time.
- Please be patient as the changes are rolled out.
- This will also adversely impact the number of clinics we are able to offer.

Swedish Exchange

- Working with LB, the SWEX will be running a 4-hour jamboree
- Players from SYHA Bantams and the Swedish team will be mixed into teams for play
- There will be a silent auction
- RS suggested a chuck-a-puck fundraiser as well.

Adjourned: 9:30pm