

Stamford Youth Hockey Association

Dec 14, 2016 Membership Meeting

Board Members Present:

Kevin Unger, Chuck Stietzel, Chris Berlingo, Randy Samuelson, Lee Bowbeer,
Mark Rosetti, John Nilsen

Board Members Absent:

Start: 7:40pm

CHC Meeting – Re: Coach and Parent Conduct

- SYHA singled out for inappropriate conduct of coaches and parents to officials
- JN reminded membership to maintain composure during games

House Update

- Games and practices have been well attended
- Good response from parents to help with coaching
- Would like to get more parent involved in setting up and tearing down cross-ice boards
- Members at meeting were very positive about the inclusion of House Fees with Travel Tuition

House Select

- Team is underway as a member of Western CT League of house select teams
- Roster is made up of house and Lady Shark players

Grow-The-Game

- USA Hockey Try-For-Free-Day is Feb 12
 - Some thought having an equipment swap on the same day would be help the event
- Field Trip to rink as part of Rosco after-school enrichment
- Have street hockey event at Scalzi Park. Cheaper than renting ice and less equipment needed.
- More Advertising in local newspapers
- Questions about having SYHA signage at Cove Park or at Terry Conners.
 - There seems to be permitting issues with this
- Outreach to PhysEd teachers at elementary schools

Lady Sharks

- Girls program is really taking off. Both U10 and U12 teams doing well and girls are enjoying it.
- For next year we should look into a 2-practice/week schedule

Treasurer Update

- Balance sheet is good and income should cover all expenses
- Some families still haven't paid
- League wide raffle
 - Drawing to be held at Feb Membership Meeting
 - Finalizing CT State application
 - Many good prizes including athletic events
 - Asking each player to sell book of 10-\$10 tickets
- SWEX discount cards are on sale now

Registrar Update

- Some coaches still have outstanding modules. Most completed.
- Alternates need to be added to rosters by 12/31
- Managers should verify all rosters
- Tryouts scheduled from April 19 – May 7, 2017

Secretary Update

- Looking for webmaster. Bill Malloy has volunteered.
- Webster arena offering discounts on tickets for UCON game Jan 12. Will post on website.

Operations Update

- A few ice slots are open. Those have been shared with coaches and schedulers
- Open ice has been filled with stick and puck sessions, so not going to waste
- Schedulers are urged to review schedules and cancel early so the ice may be utilized or sold
- Surveys have been launched; One each for Travel and House; Will close first week in January

Other Business

- Major/Minor Discussion
 - Members discussed the impact of moving to a Major/Minor (separation by birth year) team alignment or remain A/B (separation by ability)
 - This affects primarily the A1/B teams as they would be precluded from accepting any second year players at the minor level
 - Minor age players of adequate ability could compete at Major level
 - Implication is cuts would occur primarily for second year players whom could not make the Major team.
 - If numbers allowed, a B team made up from Major and minor team cuts would be made
 - Proponents saw outside leagues and tournament organized this way and therefore SYHA would be allowed to participate at those levels
 - Detractors said it was fine if the numbers were there, however to our current make up and variability year-to-year the model would not be sustainable

- Secondary Leagues (EJEPL)
 - Discussed A teams joining additional leagues to provide better completion
 - EPHL for PeeWee A team experience has been a very well run league with limited travel
 - Requires tournament-style weekends where multiple games are played and an earlier start since first league games are in August.
 - Proponents thought it would retain and attract more talent to the league as well as develop players on the team
 - Detractors were concerned about extra playing time in summer, travel, and extra costs

Other Business

- Request to set up midget tryouts earlier so that teams and schedules can be set
 - Late start led to difficulty scheduling games
- Hockey Committee roles and responsibilities are not well publicized
 - Members and roles should be defined and available on website
 - Group email address should be set up so families and email committee with concerns
- Request that goalie couches are not scheduled when three teams on on the ice for practice
 - Led to overcrowding and not enough nets

Tournaments

- Most of the league is traveling to Philadelphia for a tournament on the last week of October
- This tournament (or one other if the team is not attending) is included in a player's tuition
- It was suggested that we include a second tournament in the tuition since most teams do at least 2
- If agreed, tuitions would need to be increased to cover the costs

Playing Time

- John Nilsen posed question on what the league's philosophy on playing time should be
- Suggested that coaches should roll lines generally but could shorten bench late in close games
- Some suggested that A team coaches should be given more latitude in what players should be on the ice
- It was also suggested that more latitude should be given as the age level increases.
 - Mite Level – Always Roll -> Bantam Level – Coach's decision
- The Hockey Committee will discuss further

Adjourned: 9:00pm