

## USAH Youth Council Meetings June 4 – 5, 2009

**American Development Model (ADM):** From the Youth Councils standpoint, a good portion of our time did center on the ADM and what the various affiliates were doing with the ADM. Back in January when the ADM was rolled out, many affiliates were scrambling to figure it out. They couldn't decipher how they were going to implement the program. It was good to see that many of the affiliates were now starting to follow MH's approach, break the ADM down into smaller segments and figure out how to integrate the portions of the ADM they currently were not doing. As you will see in time, there will be many variations of the ADM, which should give MH more ideas as we move forward with our program. Dave Margenau will report additional information about the ADM.

**Recruitment / Retention:** This was the other topic that took up considerable amount of time of Youth Council conversation (a good thing from my perspective) and many of the affiliates are working just as hard as MH to develop programs, literature etc. to help recruit and retain players. Boston and Chicago areas have partnered up with their respective NHL teams to help the affiliate develop various strategies they feel will help their areas. Again, this will help MH and will give us additional ideas as these programs become developed. Dave Meisner will report additional information about recruitment and retention.

**One Goal:** USAH wants to re-enforce the One Goal program and wants to make sure affiliates are utilizing the program to help introduce players to the game of hockey. This is another tool that helps introduce players to the game at a lower cost and MH should be taking full advantage of the program.

**National Tournaments:** The Tier II National Tournament (to be held in WVA) is progressing along as expected and there are approximately (36) state affiliates committed to attend at the various age levels. Their intent is to eventually have a (48) team tournament, (4 different 12 team brackets) hopefully with all (48) states participating. Larger affiliates will be asked to supply a second team in the event some affiliate decline to participate. The tournament committee is disappointed MH has elected not to participate and would like us to reconsider our position. They feel by breaking the affiliates up into (4) brackets, this plays into MH's favor by placing us in a bracket with the stronger affiliates. Even though the participating team from MH would have to pay their own way, (Maybe MH can figure out how to financially support the team's participation.) I believe our participation in the 2010 Tier II tournament would go along ways in determining whether MH is awarded a national tournament at the girls/women's level in 2011. The first national High School tournament will be next year and will be played in the Chicago area. Dates are: (Varsity - April 14-18, 2010), (Prep – March 12-14, 2010). At this time I have indicated MH will not be participating (based on conversations with the HS coaches association and the Metro League) and they are disappointed knowing Minnesota would add credibility to the tournament. The tournament committee is also looking at a goal differential rule to be used for national tournaments. Currently there is no "Mercy" rule in place. Additional discussion centered on Pee wee and 12U national championships as they are in conflict with the ADM. Will be reviewing further at the fall meeting.

**Showcase Tournament:** (Formally known as the Chicago Showcase) Will be held in Pittsburgh PA, April 14-18, 2010.

**Tier Definitions:** The Youth Council will resume defining Tier I and Tier II now that more information has been let out about the ADM. The girls/women's section has defined Tier I and Tier II for girls programs and the committee's will use theirs as an aid to continue developing those definitions. I believe these definitions when completed hopefully level the playing field for community based programs and should help determine whether MH will participate with our community based programs at national tournaments.

**Hockey weekend across America:** Hockey weekend across America will be January 29-31<sup>st</sup>. USAH is trying to get arenas across America to promote trying the game of hockey at no cost to any individual/s on that weekend.

**Development Camps:** Several affiliates expressed their concern about the reduction of player allocations for development camps and explained the reduction of allocations makes it difficult to attract players to the affiliate tryouts. As an example, a few affiliates were not allocated a goalie coming out of the affiliate. This made it difficult to attract goaltenders to the affiliate tryout when there was no chance of a goaltender moving on to a development camp. Player Development Committee will look at the issue after this year's camp. Additional discussion on youth and girls 14 Development camps and how they are in conflict with the ADM. Will be reviewing further at the fall meeting.

**Upcoming USAH meeting dates and sites:**

2010 Winter Meeting: January 15-17, 2010, Hilton Hotel, Orlando FL.

2010 Annual Congress: June 10-13, 2010, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO.

2011 Winter Meeting: January 21-23, 2011, Hilton Hotel, Orlando FL.

2011 Annual Congress: June 8-11, 2011, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO.

Respectfully submitted:

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