



River Falls Youth Hockey Association

February 13th, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday February 13th, 2011

Place: Riverview Hotel and Suites

Board Members Present: Mike Kealy, Tom Magill, Dan Briese, Marc Harer, Dave Buck, Paul Wilson, Troy Kusilek, Lisa Woiwode, Shelly Thompson, Jody Christensen, Brian Sylla, and Kent Manglitz

Board Members Not Present:

Guests: Mike Miller, Brian Thompson, Joe Cranston, Amy Sanchez, Jason Decheine, Todd Mann, Jesse Getzie, Mike Klechefski, Paul Adermann, and Chris Brown

Notes taken by: Marc Harer

Meeting called to order @ 5:05pm by Mike Kealy

Approval of meeting minutes from January 9th, 2011 Board meeting

Marc motioned to approve minutes from January 9th, 2011 Jody 2nd motion. Board voted in favor – approved.

Finance Operations

Action Items

- *Marc to work on silent auction items for the Gala.*

Financial Report (Treasurer)

- Dan provided financials as of 2/13/11. We are current with most items with a short term debt of -\$89,246.93
- Dan has submitted tax information to Bauman's for last year's taxes to be completed.
- Dan is still working on cleaning up past financial audits and taxes with Bauman's as well. We have made much progress in the past 2 years.

Fundraising Update

- Shelly provided an update as to the recent fund raising events
 - Cookie dough sales went very well. Approximately \$8,000 was raised to support the general funds of the Association.
 - Gala update
 - Blanket sales wrapping up

Registration

- A committee led by Jody Christensen and currently including Tom Magill and Tracey Halverson is reviewing the registration for the upcoming 2011/2012 season.

Hockey Operations

Action Items

- *Marc to print out Thank You notes to be kept in office for everyone to have access to.*

Mite Program

- Brian Thompson provided some feedback in relation to the Mite program. Brian had some concerns with respect to the ice time as relates to the stated in the Policy Handbook. The value of ice time to his family was the concern. Brian also pointed out an instance where there was a scheduling conflict with kept the Mites from being able to skate.
 - The Board assured Brian that this year's fee's matched the amount of ice time allotted for the Mite program. The Policy Handbook had stated a 2 practice week with half-ice games on the weekend.
- Brian made a request for the Board to extend the season of the Mite program to accommodate for the additional ice time.
- Brian had additional questions/concerns with the development model and approach providing feedback on games and this level vs. skills development, and controlled scrimmages vs. referred games.
- Paul Adermann shared his concern of the level of play for the River Falls Mites at the upcoming Mite Jamboree. Paul was questioning whether a Board decision was made in relation to the splitting of the Mites equally to allow for both teams to compete in the B level tournament.
 - The Board confirmed that there was not a motion made to split the teams however a decision has been made to split the teams.
- Joe Cranston provided details with respect to USA Hockey and the development at this level of play. The focus needs to be on skills and NOT (full ice) games.
 - The Board understands the difficulties experienced with the Mite program this year. The Mite program for 2011/2012 is in the process of being reviewed and revamped. There will be a committee led by Joe Cranston (ACE Director) and currently including Kent Manglitz, Marc Harer, and Troy Kusilek to review the details and provide, back to the Board, a proposal for the 2011/2012 season and beyond.

Referees

- Mike Klechefski provided some feedback on his observations of our association referees. Where we have many skilled referees we also have many that need additional education and training.
 - The Board acknowledged the lack of a referee supervisor to provide ongoing training and supervision.
- Mike offered to draft and provided a proposal to approach ongoing training and supervision within our association.

Player Movement

- Marc, Jody, Lisa, and Kent have completed the review and restructuring of the Player Movement Policies of the Association. The new policy is as follows:

Player Movement Policies

In all situations, the RFYHA Board of Directors reserves the right to regulate the number of players per team, determine the number of teams at all age classifications and oversee the movement of players.

1. Transfer in policy.

Any player is welcome to play in the RFYHA provided that his/her family resides within the RFYHA boundaries. If the player's family resides outside of the RFYHA boundaries, a written release from the neighboring association will be required.

2. Transfer out policy.

Any player choosing to leave the RFYHA and play for another association while still living within the RFYHA boundaries must request a letter of release from the RFYHA Board of Directors. The RFYHA reserves the right to deny such requests.

3. Playing at a Higher Age Classification Policy

Request for player move up to a higher age classification made by a parent/player

While some players may be more skilled at a particular age than others, the RFYHA agrees with USA Hockey that the overall make up of a player including emotional, social and physical development is best served by having him or her progress normally through the established age classifications. The RFYHA does recognize situations may arise beyond the normal scope of this policy and may approve player move ups. However, first and foremost a player's physical safety and emotional well being will be considered and any change shall not compromise the make-up of the two age classifications involved.

- i. Listed below are the steps that will be followed in case of a parent/player move-up request.
 - a. A request for player move up will need to be in writing from the parents to the Board of Directors no later than August 1st of the upcoming hockey season beginning in September/October. This letter will include, but not limited to: reasons for moving your player and a recommendation from prior head coach.
 - b. The Board of Directors will review this request and approve or disapprove.
 - c. The player will then try out at the level the Board of Directors has approved for the player.
 - d. All players will be required to pay the registration fee for the level they are playing at.

Request for player move up to a higher age classification made by the Board of Directors before the season

On occasion, the Board of Directors may decide that an additional player or players are required to field a team at a specific age classification. In such a scenario, players at the lower age classification may be used to fill the spot(s) by moving up to the higher level of play. A player's physical safety and emotional well being will be considered first and foremost and any change shall not compromise the make-up of the two age classifications involved.

- i. Listed below are the steps that will be followed in the case of a Board of Directors move-up request.
 - a. The Board of Directors will provide the ACE Director a directive describing the request. Specifically, the number of players required to move.

- b. This directive shall occur at least 14 days prior to the first try-out session.
- c. The ACE Director will work with the coaches to identify a list of players to be considered. The criteria listed in the section below shall be followed.
- d. The ACE Director shall provide the players list for the Board of Directors to contact the parents of the players and seek the parent's approval.
- e. Once parental approval has been given, the players will be required to participate in try-outs. A player or players moved to a higher age classification may play on either the "A" or "B" or "C" team.
- f. All players will be required to pay the registration fee for the level they are playing at.

4. Playing at a Lower Age Classification Policy

Player request to play at a lower age classification within the association (Atoms and Mites) Since the RFYHA offers an "in-house" program for both Atoms and Mites, there is some flexibility to the USA Hockey age classifications at these levels. An older player that is a beginner or limited experience will have the option to play at a lower age classification. It is recommended that the parents of these players make contact with the ACE Director prior to registration.

Player request to play at a lower age classification within the association (Squirts through Bantams) The RFYHA must follow strict maximum age classifications at the squirt, pee-wee and bantam levels. The RFYHA has no authority to make such changes. Any request must be made through the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA).

5. Player movement within the same age classification

The RFYHA will not accept requests for player movement between teams within the same age classification after teams have been announced. This is not allowed based on WAHA and MAHA policies.

6. Double Rostering

On occasion, an additional player or players are required to field a team at a specific age level. In such a scenario, players at a lower age classification may be used to help fill the spot(s) by being placed on the roster of the team at the higher age classification. This is considered double rostering.

The player will have a primary team and make attendance at that team's events a priority. A girl registered on both a boy's team and a girl's team shall declare the boy's team as the primary team.

These players will be allowed to skate in practices and games of the double roster team provided they do not compromise the play with the primary team.

- i. Listed below are the steps that will be followed in the case of a double rostering request.
 - a. The Board of Directors will allow for coaches to extend a team roster up to 16 players via double rostering. Double roster players will be managed by both the head coach of their primary team and the head coach of their double roster team and players will be rotated fairly.
 - b. Coaches at both levels will work together to select the candidates for

double rostering and will present them to the ACE Director. If the ACE Director approves the candidate(s) he/she will present a recommendation to the Board of Directors for double roster approval. The Board of Directors will review recommendation and approve or disapprove the recommendation. All recommendations will need to be provided and approved by November 1st of that hockey season. Skaters will not double roster with a recommended team until an approval is granted from the Board of Directors.

- c. All players will pay the following double roster fee. This fee will be paid before a player skates with the team approved for the double roster. The additional fees per level are as follows:
- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| i. Mite to U10/Squirts | \$50.00 |
| ii. U10/Squirts to U12/PeeWees | \$100.00 |
| iii. U12/PeeWees to U14/Bantams | \$150.00 |
- d. The fee listed above is not considered part of the annual family maximum.

Marc motioned to approve the Player Movement Policy as stated above, Jody 2nd motion. Board voted in favor – approved.

Building Operations

Rink Use in the Summer

- Mike Klechefski provided some thoughts/ideas as to how the facilities could be utilized in the summer months.
 - Hockey skills training
 - Roller hockey
- The Board acknowledged the options for the summer and open up the discussion to the rest of the individuals at the meeting. More to come here as we look for champions that can help to organize and coordinate.

Communication Operations

Annual Meeting

- With the annual meeting approaching a committee led by Brian Sylla and currently including Jody Christensen will begin organizing the details in preparation for the meeting.

Other Items

Action Items

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Misc Items

- Amy Sanchez provided an overview of the new organizational and meeting approach which would involve more time working as committee's on the items needing attention.
- Amy reviewed the current strategic plan and grant request forms. Intent is to submit for grants asap and begin building long term relationships with the City of River Falls and the River Falls School District.

Next board meeting 5pm Sunday March 6th, at the Riverview Hotel & Suites

Marc motioned to end meeting at 9pm, Shelly 2nd motion. Board voted in favor – approved.