



MAY BOARD MEETING

MAY 17, 2011

President Neal Krauss called the May Board meeting to order at 1805.

Those in attendance: Rick Murcek
Aimee Guzman-Jones
Lisa Leary
Kirk Hutton
Neal Krauss
Mark VanderMeulen
Michael Hughes
John Sempeck
Michael Dudzinski
Jodi Kozol

Absent: Andy Ketterson

Old Business:

March and April minutes were both presented for approval due to the Annual Board Meeting in April. Motion made by Rick Murcek to accept the March minutes as written, Mike Dudzinski second motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion made by Rick Murcek to accept the April minutes as written, Michael Hughes second the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Neal Krauss nominated Brenda Orr to fill the position of ice scheduler until the next election. After some discussion from the floor, Mike Dudzinski seconded the nomination, all in favor, none opposed. Lisa Leary has software for ice scheduling. Is there something better out there? Brenda will contact other clubs and see what they use. Once Brenda is up and running, all ice requests and referee requests will go thru her.

Treasurer – Mark VanderMeulen:

Will be meeting with directors from IP => Bantam house. Hoping to get the budgets done so that they can be voted on in June.

The nice thing this year is there is no rush to getting registrations out. We have money in the back to hold us over. We will be working with JT to get on line registration set up and doing payments on line this year. Travel players will be the challenge.

The summer program is up and running. It is looking like about a \$1900 surplus, not including the IP or power skating.

Refund checks for the travel teams should go out in the next few weeks.

We are waiting on one check request from the Girl's team so that we can get that closed out.

What about AAA budget? Are these going to be under OHC like the other teams? Need to get information to Kathy for end of year.

DO NOT order anything without going thru Gilinda and Board approval. We need to make sure that we do not already have it and then present it to the Board for approval.

IP-Mite – Aimee Guzman-Jones:

This summer we are looking at how to move forward for next season, the number of coaches and number of hours of ice.

Sticks & Kicks gave us a proposal for getting goalie equipments for the younger kids to use. They propose \$325+tax a set for 10 sets. This does not include a bag, but we should be able to find bags cheap on line. Each coach would get issued one set of gear and would sign an agreement so that we get it back at the end of the season. Question as to whether 22's or 24's and how they are divided up. Motion was made by Aimee to purchase 10 sets of standard equipment, 1 set of full, right glove and blocker only, and a straight stick. Lisa Leary second the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Aimee will go down to Stick & Kicks and look at the sizes to decide how to go. A question was asked if we could open this deal up to the general membership? Aimee will check into this with Stick & Kicks.

Aimee made a motion to purchase an additional 2 sets (4 nets) of mini nets at \$129 per set. Mark VanderMeulen seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

What to do with the old Mite equipment? If it is good sell it, if not, throw it out. Price it to sell \$5-\$10.

IP Spring numbers about 110 – 19 from Try Hockey for Free
IP Summer numbers - we are still tallying.

Stacy is looking at a time for a Growth Coordinator Committee Meeting, maybe on Sundays, it is a busy time of year, but hoping to have them monthly.

Squirt-Bantam – Michael Hughes:

The Commissioner Applications have been posted on the website. Hoping to get applications for each division by the end of June. Would like at least 2 per division. General duties are listed with the application.

Coaches' applications are also on the website. The website states Travel deadline, we may want to change that to show both house and travel.

Looking at having house grading the weekend of Sept 24 & 25, 2011, will be getting with Ice Scheduler to see about ice. The ice contract runs 10/1/11 so we may need to do this the 1st weekend in October.

Looking at having a pre-season tournament before the NHL starts, kind of like the Fall Freeze that the High School has.

We have contacted the NHL about the upcoming season. Will know more in the coming weeks. Tri-City will not be participating this season, they will solely participate at the travel level.

We have submitted a Douglas County Visitor Improvement Grant Application. The goal here is to help with the expansion of the select tournaments. Grants are reviewed starting on June 1st.

The Select Weekends were set at the Midwest meetings: Dec 16-18, 2011; Jan 13-15, 2012 and Feb 17-20 (sites to be determined). Looking at having the tryouts for the Select teams earlier due to the earlier dates for the Select weekends. Tryouts will likely be in August/early September.

Originally wanted to do the President's Day weekend a combined tournament (Select, A, Girls), but now that that is a Select weekend, we will need to choose an alternate weekend. Will work with Rick and Andy on dates so that we can start advertising.

High School League Commissioner – Lisa Leary:

The HS Steering Committee took May off to recharge. A couple of volunteers have already gone thru the socks in the back to see what they need to purchase for next year, and there are at least enough socks for 2 full teams.

Will be working with Mark to get practice jerseys for the players so that we do not have color conflicts between some of the teams.

HS Midwest League Director – John Sempeck:

We will be moving to 17 minutes stop periods, with the clean after the 2nd period.

It looks like the JV tournament will be eliminated this year.

The coaches' applications are out and are due back June 5th. Need to get a selection committee together to select our coaches. We also need volunteers for the steering committee, it is posted on the website.

We need more ice time this year and will be getting with Mark to get this into the budget.

We are looking at having tryouts in August (depends on the coaching input as to when). Are we going to do any advertising about the tryouts? Can we do them in early August so they do not conflict with the HS House teams?

The HS national tournament is looking at not allowing travel teams to participate. Looking at getting a U16 or U18 team for pre-season/post-season play.

July is the next Midwest HS meeting. At the last meeting there was discussion about the referees. Suggesting that we have a 3 man crew with 2 refs and 1 linesman.

Travel Director – Rick Murcek:

The MWAHA and Midwest meetings were held last weekend and there are going to be some changes in the upcoming season.

There were 3 major rule changes proposed with USA Hockey:

- 1) A checking rule change at the PeeWee level. The idea is to remove the big open ice hits at the PeeWee level while increasing the physical contact. This is expected to pass.
- 2) No more icing on a penalty kill at all levels. The official will blow the whistle and stop the play.
- 3) Decrease the penalty time on games when 15 minute periods are played to 1 ½ minutes.

MWAHA passed a rule that ALL U8 hockey will be played cross-ice. This would eliminate the Select teams. There would be NO full ice allowed at this level. There would be no Midwest games at this level. Organizations can put on Jamborees, but they must be cross ice. There were a number of questions raised that we will need to look into:

- 1) What do we do with the 20% that excel? Do we have anything in place for them?
- 2) Colorado fielded a Mite AAA team that plays full ice, and Colorado also has in place that Mites must play cross ice, how do they do it?

Aimee is to talk with the coaches and come up with a proposal on how our Mites will look next year and bring it to the Board.

It will also get easier for validating players going forward. The Travel players will have their birth certificates validated at the beginning of this season and going forward this will follow them so that we will not have to bring copies of the birth certificates to all the games.

There is a proposed change that coaches must advance 1 level per year. Right now you need to recertify every two years for Level 3 and after second renewal the coach must move to Level 4.

MWAHA lead the nation in growth. OHC was a large part of that. Net growth for our organization was 164 skaters.

They are looking at changing the Midwest League runs. The teams will pick which level they want to play at: AA, A, etc. Then there will be 2 Declaration weekends where like teams will be paired and see if they are in the correct level. Then based on how everyone plays, the brackets will be set for the final weekend.

There is some questions as to whether our Midwest HS team will be allowed to play in the National HS Championships. They don't want travel teams in this, they want teams that represent a school with students from that school making up the team.

Nov 5, 2011 is the next Try Hockey for Free. We will get registered for this by July 1, 2011, but waiting for Brian to get back to us on the ice times. We are hoping for free ice and skates, but will take what we can get. Is this when a Husker game is? We should check this out prior to setting our times.

Coaching applications are on-line and due for all divisions by June 5th, 2011, from Mite => HS for both travel and house teams. This does not include IP.

We will be working with the Ice Scheduler to set tryout times hopefully in August.

Consent to Screen forms are going electronic. Rick has the link and will try to get this put on the website.

MWAHA went thru a USA Hockey audit. OHC shined brightly in some areas, but not in coaches' registrations. If a coach steps on the ice and is not registered with USA Hockey, our insurance is null and void for all of OHC. There is a fee for coaches' registrations, and it can be reimbursed if a check request with receipt is turned in. OHC is in good standing.

Shawn Spencer will be the new MWAHA VP in charge of either compliance or special projects.

Omaha AAA – Kirk Hutton:

Jason White has retired from coaching, so will need another U18 coach.

We are looking at different league opportunities. The coaches are recruiting.

Kirk was asked to be on the MWAHA AAA Committee. There is a possibility that each organization will only be allowed to register a certain number of kids from outside the area.

Will AAA have their own locker rooms? Possibility of doors on lockers?

Kirk said he would be willing to serve as the AAA Director for another year. Jodi Kozol made a motion that Kirk Hutton be appointed for this next season as the Omaha AAA Director, Neal Krauss seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Kirk said he is going to use this year to start grooming someone to take his place.

Vice President – Mike Dudzinski:

Working on getting the Disciplinary Committee up and running. Also meeting with Referee in Chief and the coaches.

President – Neal Krauss:

Website contract is up for renewal. This is the proposed contract for both JT as webmaster and Engine. This is a 1 year contract:

- 1) Hosting: \$ 800
- 2) Training (2 – 1 hour sessions) - \$200
- 3) On-line registration: \$100 (does this include on line payments?)
- 4) Webmaster fee: \$1200
- 5) 10% discount if paid by 5/31/11

Neal made a motion to accept the above renewal with the following exceptions:

- 1) 3 – 1 hours sessions with notes provided
- 2) What is the cost of on-line payments if not included.

Seconded by Mike Dudzinski. All in favor, none opposed.

Coaching Director job description was presented to the Board for review. At this time, we have not made a decision as to whether we will have one or not, but want this is a position that we should have. Will this position be paid? Does it have to be paid? The last 2 we had failed, and not their fault. This should be a part time position, mostly during the season and not someone coaching. After discussion, it was decided that Neal would work with Brenda to get a more detailed job description.

Registrar job description was handed to Gilinda. It is a general outline, but does not cover everything she does. She will help fill in the blanks.

An OHC Code of Conduct was handed out for review. This is something that USA Hockey wants us to have.

We also need a whistle blower policy. This shows the steps they can take and needs to go into the Rules and Regs. How do we set this up.

Coaches Ethics guidelines are on the website. We should look at this and review for all coaches.

We need a Referee in Chief. Mike Dudzinski is willing to take this on, unless someone else in the organization would be willing and qualified to take this on.

The Association Growth Job Description was also handed out and will be worked on the come up with one description.

New Business:

Christie Naberhaus was not at the meeting, so Jodi presented, on her behalf, volunteer time that should be associated with any Hardship money given out. She suggests that the kids that receive the money should be responsible for the volunteer hours, and not the parents. This is not something that the Board will mandate. It is up to the parents if they want to do the volunteer time or have the kids do it. We will allow the kids to do it if they want, but we will not be used as “babysitters” for the younger kids. The Board will look at how many hours should be put in for Hardship money when this is revised this summer.

Motion was made by Kirk Hutton to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lisa Leary. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 2115.

These minutes are respectfully submitted for your approval.

Jodi Kozol
Board Secretary