

IDAHO AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with USA Hockey

Idaho Falls*Sun Valley*Salmon*McCall*Moscow*Coeur d'Alene*Boise Amateur*Boise Youth

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

May 12, 2007

Idaho Falls, Idaho

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order by Tom Power at 8:31 a.m. at the Idaho Falls Activity Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Those in attendance included: **Tom Power**, (President IAHA), **Tom Lampl** (Associate Registrar, USA Hockey, Idaho Initiation Program Coordinator, Idaho Coaching Education Director), **Bobby Noyes** (Supervisor of Officials), **Wally Morgus** (IAHA Treasurer), **George Cole** (IAHA and RMD Webmaster), **Brad Andrews** (IAHA Risk Manager), **Wayne Lehto** (RMD Director), **Jean Hersley** (IFYHA), **Rob Hergesheimer** (IFYHA), **Brad Francis** (IFYHA), **Kathy Vernon** (IFYHA), **Bill Mason** (SVYH), **Bob Crosby** (SVYH), **Rich Evans** (SVYH), **Mike Hanley** (SVYH), **Britt Talbert** (BAHA, Idaho Ice World), **Colin Zulianello** (BAHA, Idaho Ice World), **Steve Walsh** (Salmon Hockey Association), **Kevin Creighton** (CDAHA), **Nicki Bowden** (Secretary IAHA).

(Names and addresses are included with minutes as Attachment 1.)

Introductions were conducted and votes counted. There was a quorum in attendance with 10 of 17 votes present. (Voting breakdown included with minutes as Attachment 2.)

Minutes of September 2006 Meeting: All members previously received copies of the September 2006 meeting minutes for review.

Steve Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Jean Hersley. No discussion.

Motion carried. (Minutes included as Attachment 3.)

Association Reports:

Brad Francis (IFYHA): Brad reported that the IFYHA program is designed first and foremost as a recreational program. All went very well this year. The main fund raiser for the season was a 3 on 3 tournament. IFYHA wants to compliment the girls program, they won the State tournament, went on to the Regional Tournament and did well there. They are planning one and possibly two 3 on 3 tournaments for next season. They will try to get the word out better to other associations so that we can get more participation from outside our association

Steve Walsh (Salmon): Steve reported that the big thing for their group was the USA Hockey article. It was really cool and a very big deal not just for the Salmon Hockey Association but also for their town. After the article they worked on their web site hoping to use the interest generated by the article to get some monetary contributions but that hasn't really happened. They kept their registration fees at \$85 across the board. To grow the program, any first year skater will skate for free in the Salmon Hockey Association and the association will provide gear (used) so the new players don't have to incur expenses while trying hockey. Their numbers were down in mites and they had only 7 girls (they lost three girls to the boys teams). They have implemented a new rule in the association that after Squirt level, girls must play with the girls team, they will be able to play both (girls and boys) but their primary team will be the girls team. Through their fund raising efforts they were able to purchase a newer Zamboni. Families each pay \$100 to the fund raising account which can be worked off at \$5.00/hour. The City of Salmon now pays them \$3,000 per year to maintain the upper public rink.

Bill Mason (Sun Valley): Bill reports that he has stepped down as the President of Sun Valley Youth Hockey. He introduced to the board, Rich Evans and Bob Crosby. Sun Valley had an interesting year. Their biggest issue was at the midget level trying to figure out what did of teams

they were going to have. They feel it was very important to develop the U-16 program. They had some problems with the Pee Wee team at the State Tournament. Their Midget A team won the State Tournament. The girls team is doing very well, they are a very strong team. Sun Valley hosted the State High School Tournament, there were a few issues, mostly because of the odd number of teams that attended. The numbers in the association are pretty much stagnant; they can't seem to break out of that. They have fairly strong numbers in the lower divisions, but have quite a bit of attrition at the higher levels.

Britt Talbert (BYHA): Britt reported that losing Katie Covey was a big hit to their program. They have now added Colin Zulianello, a former NHL Player; he is over the Goalie Coaches. This past season they used the Fair Play Rules for all teams from Midget down. They will continue to award fair play points again this year. They've been in a bit of a crunch with officials, losing a total of 6 over the past season. They have just certified 8 new adult officials and are working closely with the Treasure Valley Officials. They broke their Mitey Mites into 3 groups and they graduate up through the ranks. The adult winter games were very successful for them, they had to turn away 10 teams. Boise High went to the District High School Tournament to represent Idaho. They were very competitive but for penalties. They may have some issues in the future as Boise High and Meridian High both have open enrollment and now all the hockey players are enrolling in those two schools. They have a 3 on 3 league with 8 teams in each division and including 40 women. This league goes through the summer. The Boise Parks and Recreation Department supplemented coaches to go to the level 4 clinic. BYHA has about 50 girls registered (mite – midget) about ½ of those are Pee Wee age and below. Boise also has a plan in place to add a third rink. It may be next to Ice World or on Eagle Road at McDevit Park. They have people who want to fund it and have the City of Boise run it. It is in the 5 year city plan.

Tom Power (CADHA): Tom reported that they had 15 teams this year (up from 7 the previous year) with around 180 registered players. They are struggling with numbers in the girls division; some were scooped by the North West All Stars. They saw huge growth in the younger groups; they have been taking them from Vince's Learn to Skate program. There were questions regarding the Coeur 'd Alene Lakers Jr. team, but the team was purchased by Tom Mort and they will be staying. They are trying to focus on getting better coaching at the higher levels. Their challenges for next year are that they have a lot of work to do on the rink and they need volunteers. Player Development camp was hosted by CADHA and it went very well. Their association is trying to work with the schools to get more kids out to play.

Presidents Report: Tom Power reported that he was not able to attend the National meeting. Tom Lampl attended in his place.

Tom Lampl reported on the National Meeting. Tom stated that there is a big push nationally to grow the game and we all need to be aware and thinking of what we can do as an affiliate and as individual associations to accomplish this goal. This is also a rule change year and there is a ground swell that we move to tag up on off sides. People believe it will speed up the games. He does not think it will speed the game up but does think it will hurt player development. He thinks there is enough support that this will pass. There is also talk of changing a few other rules: a) so that you can't ice the puck if you are short handed; b) you have to serve the entire penalty regardless of scoring and, c) there is talk of either changing the 15 penalty rule and making it 18 or eliminating it all together. As a reminder, Idaho implemented previously that we will not tolerate having a Head Coach register as the Assistant Coach to avoid his having to serve a game for the team amassing too many penalties. They announced that there will be a revamp of the USA Hockey web site. There was also an initiative announced to have district representatives attend Affiliate Meetings. He then announced that we had our District Rep, Wayne Lehto, in attendance and turned the time over to Wayne.

Wayne Lehto reported to us that the District Directors are going to do more to try to help the affiliates. They have agreed to split the district. Wayne has responsibility for Idaho and Utah and Brian Yeary (from Colorado) has responsibility for Montana and Wyoming. If there is ever an

issue we can't resolve, Wayne is available to help resolve those issues. There is not intent by the District to micro-manage any affiliate, they are just here to help. Wayne also reminded us that there is a lot of information out there on the District and National level and we can call him at any time if we need questions answered. He indicated that Idaho is a very well run program, but Utah is having problems, they are trying to re-write their by-laws. They seem to have too many special interest groups that are all trying to get control to benefit their own group.

Tom Lampl then reported on the Northern Plains District (The Dakota's, Wyoming and Montana) they were given approval to for this district last June ('05) and still have done nothing. They are trying to go back to the old registration method with mid-year registrations. Tom is not sure if this district will happen this year or not. With the new district Montana and Wyoming will not participate in Tier 1 Nationals, only Tier II and they will not participate in Girls Nationals. If their district gets more spots for Nationals, those spots will be taken away from the Rocky Mountain District and Minnesota District. Tom is working on proving statistically that they should not be given any of our spots. This new district has only 25% of the population of the next smallest district.

Treasurer's Report: Wally Morgus reported that we are in very good shape. Three years ago we ended the year with \$14,000 in the bank, this year we have \$24,000. He also reported that at the Player Development Camp Vince gave us the ice, gratis, and suggested that if we have money left in the PDC account we should compensate him. *Britt Talbert made a motion to compensate Vince, up to \$1,500 leaving at least a \$250 reserve balance in the account.* Motion was seconded by Steve Walsh. No discussion. **Motion Carried.** Wally will look at the account, make sure we have at least \$250 in reserve and send funds to Vince.

Wally reported that 79% of players in the state registered with USA Hockey on line – throughout the district it was 81%. (Salmon registered 100% of its players on line; they made it mandatory this season the registered 140 players with only two complaints.)

Wally indicated we have applied for this year's block grant and reminds everyone that USA Hockey requires receipts for all block grant monies before the next years check is given. *Jean Hersley made a motion that all grant proposals for this fiscal year be submitted by June 15, 2007.* Motion was seconded by Bob Crosby. No Discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Discussion regarding grants for next year: Tom Lampl would like us to come up with what we, as an affiliate, use the grant money for across the board. This will encourage associations to supplement their programs and apply for grant funds that are available.

Suggestions (from everyone in attendance):

USA Hockey Skills DVD's \$40

USAH Starter Kits (One Goal Program) \$80

Equipment for older kids that are new skaters

Athletes Construction Dry land DVD's

Kathy Vernon made a motion that matching grant funds of up to \$1,500/association be used to promote their house recreational program through Marketing, Promotion, Removal of Barriers, Equipment, Events and Festivals. Motion was seconded by Jean Hersley. No Discussion.

Motion Carried.

Registrar's Report: Tom Lampl provided a report showing registration numbers for past years and reminds everyone to do what they can to grow the game. Also a reminder that coaches must be registered if they are on the ice they must register. All association registrars' have the information on registering coaches.

Player Development Camp: Tom reported that our player development camp went very well and recommends we return to Coeur 'd Alene at some point. We returned 6 spots to the district this year because we didn't have players to send. We have always been good about not sending kids just to fill a spot and therefore we have never been turned down when we've requested extra spots.

Team Idaho – End of Year Teams: We need to have commitment from players up front, several players changed their minds or had conflicts arise which makes pulling off the end of year teams very difficult. Tom suggests we may want to collect a check at the beginning of the camp, then if you make the team, we keep the funds and if you do not the check is returned. Tom also indicated we need someone else to handle the IAHA Player Development Camp next season. He is now in charge of the District Camp and therefore it is a conflict of interest to also run our state camp. *Brad Francis made a motion to elect Mike Lehto to run the IAHA Player Development Camp and end of year teams.* Motion was seconded by Steve Walsh. No Discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Coaching Education Report: Tom Lampl reminded everyone we need to start scheduling clinics, send e-mail to Tom to get things set up. He indicated that beginning October 1st he will not be able to conduct any CEP seminars.

A.C.E. Program: Tom Lampl reported for Gary Barnes. ACE is USA Hockey's attempt to keep pushing information down to coaches so that they have current information. We have an IAHA ACE Coordinator and each association should have one as well. Sun Valley and Boise participate very well, but we have almost no other participation throughout the state. Gary asked that each association have their ACE Coordinator send him their reports and only Sun Valley and Boise have sent them. If you are not taking advantage of this program you are doing a disservice to your entire organization. We have tried to have ACE meetings before the State Tournament and at PDC but do not get the participation we need. Tom asked that everyone take the information back to their organizations letting them know how important this is and begin participating.

Referee/Officiating: Bobby Noyes reported that we had 180 registered officials (including 12 females) which was up some from the previous year. At the IAHA State Tournament we had representation from Idaho Falls, Sun Valley, Salmon and Boise. At the State High School Tournament they had help from Idaho Falls, Boise and Sun Valley.

There is an upcoming instructor's clinic in Colorado Springs and we will be sending at least two for training this year.

No clinic dates have been set yet; get your dates to Bobby as quickly as possible.

At the PDC in SLC we had a Development Camp for officials. It is a working camp, they get filmed and critiqued (it is continuing educations). The knowledge and constructive criticism you get is really valuable. Dave Smith from the NHL was there to talk to the officials. We'd love to have more attendance from officials (age 14 and up), this year we only had three attend from Idaho and there were about 35 spots available.

Numbers of officials are somewhat stagnant and we'd like everyone to encourage more participation in their organizations.

The new standards of play went over quite well. Everyone seemed to adapt and learn and by the end of the year it was fine.

Risk Management: Brad Andrews reported that screening last season went very well. When determining who needs to be re-screened look at the web site, the date here is the year you were screened, add 3 years and you will know when you need to be screened again. Some coaches did not include all the information he needed on the form. It would be best if someone in each organization took responsibility to make sure they are filled out completely and always make sure there is a phone number listed. Screening shows up on the web site as soon as it is complete. About 5 coaches were screened after December 31. Brad will e-mail the list to Wally and Wally will invoice those 5 coaches/associations (\$100 fine for each screening after 12/31).

Webmaster: George Cole reported that he is now also the webmaster for the Rocky Mountain District this helps with keeping our website up to date with theirs. While at the State Tournament and State High School Tournament he kept scores posted and up to date on the web. He reported that USA Hockey is moving their website to a new platform. The site should migrate seamlessly. He also reminded everyone that there is room on the site for information about their

tournaments, etc. Just let George know if you want to use that feature. George also offered to help any association that needs help in getting their site going.

State Tournaments: Tom Power reported on the IAHA State Tournament. He wanted to thank the City of Boise and the Steelheads Organization. The only problem we had was that we had a commitment from McCall to send a Pee Wee team. They backed out that week. Tom's opinion is that they should be liable to pay for that spot because we had to pull in a house team from Boise and that team played for free for helping us out. *Rob Hergesheimer made a motion that McCall live up to paying their Pee Wee State Tournament entry fee. That we send a letter indicating that they need to live up to their commitments to the affiliate to remain a member in good standing. The fee amount is \$625.* Motion was seconded by Britt Talbert. No Discussion. **Motion Carried.** Bill Mason reported on the State High School Tournament, he thanked Wally and Bobby for helping with the tournament. It worked out very well. He feels that we're always going to have odd ball numbers but it did work out in well. Another issue that needs to be corrected is that it was a concern that we had to make sure declared teams were pure. The only two issues to make this tournament go more smoothly in the future are: 1) we need to know which teams are declared; and 2) need to have more timely payment.

New Business: Tom Power reported on the Growing the Game Initiative. He reported that a recent study found the following: Typically if 10 kids start playing at age 5, ten years later only 3 remain in the program. The two biggest loss years are the second year of play (20 to 22% drop rate) and High School (because of sports and other activities). Another big reason for quitting hockey is the cost of the game (53% of hockey families had an income over \$100,000/year) 79% of girls drop out while playing on boys teams compared to 21% that drop out when playing on a girls team. We really need to focus on what we can do to retain kids and then on what we can do to bring them in. In Wyoming they are focusing on 12 to 14 year old girls with development camps and special festivals. They are dropping their mini mite programs. In Montana they are developing a mentoring program. Colorado has a Test Drive Program with less structure and more fun at 8 and under. After discussion we determined we should focus on Girls 10-14, House/Rec Leagues, U-16 and U-18 teams. Each association should go back, look at their demographics and set the bar for their organization. There was a reminder that you can only play up one level, so a Bantam could play up to U-16 but not U-18 (if allowed by your association). We need to focus on marketing, promotion, removal of entry barriers (have scholarships), equipment and promotional events.

State Tournament: Long discussion commenced regarding A & B bracket at IAHA State Tournament, no decisions or motions were made.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be September 15, 2007 in Coeur 'd Alene.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicki Bowden