

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2013

Audience: .Troy Giesege, Kellie Feiler, Jason Luxford, Marcie Rauls, Leah Phippen, Mike Culbertson, and Dale Ripp

President Jen Kurtz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dale Ripp shared some comments and complaints about Scrip dues reduction program. He feels it is a wonderful program with some issues. When it comes to applying dues reduction, it wasn't possible to apply it to registration, so they were not able to register by Sept. 1, and therefore are not guaranteed a roster spot, when they have a credit, which is unfair.

There are a lot of great things in the Scrip program, and Scrip Now! allows families to buy something through Scrip and use it right away, but he had to wait two months for a recent order, which he paid for and then was unable to use. He is a bit disgruntled about that. He also didn't think the registration information was sufficient to indicate that the voluntary dues reduction funds couldn't be used, and that it says it would be reflected in the December invoice or credited against next year's dues.

The program is a dues reduction program that doesn't require buying anything extra, which is better in his opinion than the fundraising cards, which are a hard sell, and basically become another fee. Jen pointed out that there is a difference, in that the cards are intended as a fundraiser, versus dues reduction.

Dale also mentioned that there are currently no receipts issued when cards are received, which could cause a problem. There should be a signature required when receiving the cards.

Jen explained that the registration fee had to be paid through the website, so there was no way to register and then apply credits to cover that fee. The early registration was a discount, but she noted that she hadn't received any communication about there being questions about this until the early registration period had passed. Angie commented that the player shouldn't be penalized for miscommunication, and at the very least should still have a place on the team. James indicated that it shouldn't be an issue this year for HS2, which is where there have been challenges in previous years.

Jen indicated that we are trying to get the Scrip program back on track and ensure it is a year-around thing. Dave would also like to see a back-up plan. Jen apologized and said we will try to get things straightened out. You could have free dues for one kid if you really utilized the program.

Marcie Rauls feels that something should be added to the registration packet to explain more clearly how Scrip can be applied.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

The August meeting minutes were approved and have been published. Ecomm meeting minutes were distributed via email but Betsy also offered hard copies for any Board members who wanted them.

SPYHA won twelve sets of free One Goal equipment from USA Hockey for being a gold level association for 2x2 Challenge activities, including holding Try Hockey for Free, calling returning players, etc.

Updated registration numbers were sent to the Board Thursday. James asked about any additional registrations – Betsy indicated there was just one ADM player registered since Thursday. Travel level reps have received information on last year's players to follow up on regarding registration, and similar information will be provided to call U6 and U8 players.

b. Treasurer – Gary Brendemuehl

Gary had emailed bank information to the Board for review. Additional funds for the owner purchase account will be allocated from the Capital Campaign account. Invoices should have gone out for all squirt and peewees. We are doing all of the invoices "in-house" and not using Bo Dilly to save money. The registration fees brought in about \$7k, which is directly deposited into SPYHA accounts.

Gary will be working with the Scrip coordinator to ensure family accounts are appropriately credited.

c. President Elect – Angie Hadley

Angie noted it was nice to see crews working on the new rink at 5 am.

d. Past President – Dave Batterman

- SP Ice Update

The rink ownership board has met three times. Jeff, Dave, and Chuck bring the other five members up to speed on the building. Going forward, they will probably meet at 7 am every other week.

e. President – Jen Kurtz

Jen thanked everyone for keeping cell phone use to a minimum. She also thanked all who had volunteered their time over the summer decommissioning the rink. Jen personally thanked Dale Ripp for his numerous hours. Those volunteers who helped will be given DIBS hours. We are working on getting a list together.

Dave explained the concept of pledged labor versus volunteer labor as it pertains to the new rink. If the pledge form indicated pledged labor hours, it would not count toward DIBS volunteer hours. November and December will be big for starting to need pledged labor. Stevens is working on a schedule.

Jen mentioned that families were being invoiced based on 15-player rosters.

Regarding spirit wear, Ann Becker would like to give a presentation on behalf of Creative Marketing Specialists. It would be nice to have some options different from last year. We've worked with both Ameriprint and Elite in the past, and Mary from Suter's Gold Medal Sports for warm-ups. We need selections made and options priced out. Angie agreed to take this over.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee

We are working to set up time with Kathy Thornton to go over DIBS. Sue Culbertson is still interested in helping out. Jen thanked Troy Giesege for arranging the donation with the Mud, Sweat, and Beers run event.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee

Scott Halbleib expects that the cards will be available in time for the squirt evaluations.

We will not have a New Year's Eve event this year, but it has still be suggested that there continue to be the membership drawings as there have been in the past. Maybe this will be part of the grand opening.

c. Communications Committee – Steve Traut

The analytics presentation is tabled for a future meeting. Steve didn't have anything else.

d. ACE Directors – Troy Giesege

Tryouts are approaching. Everything is set from an evaluation perspective. Pre-skates started today and went well.

e. Region 4 Meetings

Marcie Rauls attended the August meeting and provided minutes (attached). It was noted that the scheduling meeting is Oct. 20. Board level reps should plan to attend, but don't plan to be home before the start of the Packer game, since Region 4 may not release leagues until the meeting begins.

James asked if HS2 needed to attend, as they have a separate scheduling meeting.

Region 4 is still looking for a Red, White, and Blue and a PeeWee Age Level Director (ALD).

SPYHA will not have any ice used for Region 4 playdowns as they were afraid of a building delay.

The seeding process for playdowns will be significantly different, as coaches will now meet to seed teams. Previously the ALD's received a lot of flak/complaints. Troy asked about dates – Jen will get them to him.

Karen is scheduled for the September meeting. WAHA directors will be there, and there will be a Safe Sport presentation. Betsy apologized in advance to coaches because the Safe Sport curriculum will likely add on to the coaching modules in some way.

Jen is still in need of Board members to fill meeting slots. She encouraged Board members to go, as it is interesting to meet other associations and hear what they are struggling with too.

Marcie talked about an outdoor 3x3 tournament that is the weekend before playdowns. She thought it was a great idea, but the timing is bad.

One of the WAHA directors made a point of mentioning that summer hockey should not be used to recruit players from one associate to another. WAHA is getting sick of releases, and may say no to more transfers. Jen pointed out this is something to be aware of – if an association rosters too many out-of-district kids on one team, the association can lose a lot, including eligibility for state or hosting sanctioned tournaments. Some of the boundaries, though, are a bit confusing.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

a. ADM U6 / ADM U8 – vacant / Lisa Wendler

Lisa priced out jerseys for ADM U8- \$12 for one, or \$24 for two different jerseys. A two-sided reversible jersey is \$40. The plan was for the kids to keep these jerseys.

Flyers for Learn to Skate/New to SPYHA Hockey are out, display boards are made for open houses, and volunteers to attend open houses at the elementary schools have been identified.

Losing Try Hockey for Free (THFF) as a feeder to the Learn to Skate/New to SPYHA Hockey this year is a blow. THFF has traditionally brought in at least 30% of the attendees in to the program.

ADM equipment handout will be at Hensen's. Lisa and the equipment managers will figure out times. Jen thought weekends or evenings would be fine.

b. Squirt – open

Jen thought that the first pre-evaluation skate went well today. There were two players missing. Two hours is pretty long – the original thought was that there would be more kids and that they would be divided by alphabet. We'll send an email reminder about the first evaluation session. Karen will send a similar email for peewees.

Jason indicated that squirt tryouts are for six sessions, but they may be limited to three or four, with the remaining sessions as skill sessions. There will be parent meetings at the first evaluation session.

James asked if jerseys were needed for tryouts at this level.

c. PeeWee – Karen Welling

Twenty-six peewees skated for the pre-evaluation session. A parent asked about peewee goalies. Dave indicated that we are well in front of other associations for evaluations, and after things settle out there may be one looking for a team.

Next month may be a good time to start a discussion about what to do with goalies and the possibility of goalie camp.

Karen mentioned some water bottle issues and kids using other kids. She will add a suggestion that kids bring their own, as there are already some illnesses going around. This will also be added to the parent meeting agenda. Snacks may also be helpful for longer session.

There were some locker room challenges at Hartmeyer, since they closed two of the four locker rooms, and with the two hour sessions had them double-booked. Equipment had to be "consolidated." Jen will follow up with Chuck. In the meantime, everyone on the Board should remind members that we are visitors at other rinks and we need to make a good impression.

d. Bantam – Steve Traut

Still one outstanding player that is expected to register, but hasn't.

e. High School – James Trent

Two more are expected to register. Friday James and Betsy are heading to Fond du Lac for the league meeting and scheduling. Jen may come if she's available.

James mentioned that old jerseys are needed for the split squad games. Dave knows where they are in the trailer and will set up a time with four or five other individuals to go into the trailers and retrieve things.

f. Coaches rep. – Jason Ledford

The amount of coaches feels good. Some need to get paperwork. Jason has heard that the Beloit Junior Fury may have a U14 goalie that was willing to play for the Diamonds, but they have sufficient numbers. She might be interested in playing at the peewee level.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. New Rink / Building Committee

Dave reported that the new rink is making good progress. About one-sixth of the roof is on. Walls on the west, north, and south sides are up except for holes for truck access. They are pushing to get things closed in as soon as possible. They just got to walk up on the upper level. The sight lines will be great. Still looking at a Jan. 17 opening, it is too early to tell if an earlier opening is possible. Volunteers will be needed in November and December –look for information to come through team reps. Recent pictures were taken on Friday and will be up-loaded soon.

b. Capital Fundraising – Jen Kurtz

The next meeting will be Monday in the bar at PAC at 6 pm. Glass block deadline has passed, Lisa Wendler has scanned forms and Patti Weber is organizing them. We are in the process of ordering them. Count is 178. This will be an ongoing fundraiser – there is plenty of room for more. Members are still welcome to join the committee. Lisa noted that the worst someone can say when you approach them for a donation is no.

c. Baseline concussion screening

Chris Finkler has set up the baseline concussion screening on Oct. 9 at 7 pm at Sun Prairie High School. It is for bantam-age players & up. There will be an informational meeting for parents and then the kids will be tested that night. Players who have taken the testing through the high school do not need to do it again. The program is through UW Health. Board reps should communicate this to their teams.

d. 2013-2014 Season Schedule Updates

Practice schedules should be out this week. The 2014 home ice allotment is done. There are some late Wednesday night practices for bantams and HS2, with the thought that religion classes/CCD would be over before they started. Our squirts have “prime time” ice at Sauk in November and December, Mondays and Fridays, but we have a great rate. In return for this, we have booked many of our home games at Sauk. Most teams are pretty close in October, as there is more open ice available. Chuck’s advice, shared by Jen, is to be happy – we will be skating in a state of the art facility in 10 weeks. Jen gave kudos to Chuck for his work.

The question about cost adjustments was made. Depending on how things end up, it is a possibility. Jason thought it would all come out in the wash.

6. New Business

a. Squirt Board Representative Vacancy

Jen thanked Marcie for her time and service. The position is now vacant because bylaws require level representatives to have players in the association at the level they represent, and Marcie’s squirt-age son is playing for the Capitals. As a result, the position is open. Jen noted that she had received indications that there were at least two people interested in the position. All interested candidates were invited to share some background information.

Stacy Hollfelder has a first year squirt, and is in her fifth year in the association. She was a LTP team level rep a few years ago, and has coached lots of soccer teams. Recently, she helped with on the New Year’s Eve planning committee. She also has a little girl who doesn’t want to play hockey.

Mike Culbertson has a second year squirt. He is a multi-unit restaurant manager with Rocky Rococo’s.

Jason Luxford has been in the association for 14 years, and has a first year squirt. His oldest son is at UW-Oshkosh and his daughter refuses to play right now. He is a volunteer fire fighter.

The Board voted by ballot, and Stacy won with 4 votes and was appointed squirt level rep. It was nice to have some volunteers come forward, and all were thanked for their interest.

b. ADM U6 rep vacancy

Leah Phippen was in attendance with a willingness to serve as the U6 level rep. Leah’s husband Tory coaches, and she has two sons in U6, Vaughn and Taryn. She acknowledged there being a learning curve, but has confidence that Lisa will be great to work with.

Lisa made a motion to appoint Leah as the U6 board level rep. Karen seconded the motion. All approved and Leah is the new U6 board level rep. Board members introduced themselves and welcomed both Stacy and Leah to the Board table.

c. Tournament Selection

Jen explained the tournament selection sheet provided by Chuck. This year more than ever it’s important to identify what week-ends teams will be traveling so that we don’t buy ice, especially in the first half of the season, and so that home games in the new rink can be planned appropriately. We’ve also run into cases where teams haven’t been able to get into early season tournaments, so we want to start the process now. Ecomm looked at tournament offerings and

has proposed some tournaments for the Board to consider. One tournament for each team is included in dues at the amount of that level's Cardinal Cup. Teams pay for other tournaments from their team budget.

Jen mentioned Cedar Rapids has some early tournaments and have been sending teams to us, so we'd like to reciprocate. Jason suggested checking on coaching certification clinics conflicts with tournaments. He's also reluctant to send squirts to tournaments that might attract Minnesota teams, even if it is a MN "B" tournament, because the A team has lost five kids to the Capitals. Review of the coaching certification website indicated Dec. 6-8 was a USA Hockey certification clinic, so he recommended trying to find tournaments at other weekends.

First half season tournament

Team	Tournaments	Motion	Second	Board Comments	Audience Comments	Outcome
PeeWee A	Cedar Rapids Green Bay	Dave	Gary	James asked if anyone had been there. Jen thought they had a nice flyer, Rough Riders games are a nice plus	None	10-0-1, with Jason abstaining
Squirt A & B	Tomah	Jason	Dave	Black River Falls might be a possibility too	None	9-0-2, with Karen and Betsy abstaining. Jason apologized for Karen for sending her kids to three different places
PeeWee B	Cedar Rapids Wausau	Dave	Lisa	None	None	11-0
Bantam A	Green Bay Cedar Rapids	Dave	Angie	Green Bay puts PeeWee A and Bantam A together, which can be fun to support other SPYHA Teams. As a non-parent coach, Troy Giesege supports the choices	None	10-0-1, with Jason abstaining
Bantam B	Cedar Rapids	Dave	Karen	Challenges finding other tournaments	None	9-0-2, with James and Jason abstaining
HS2	Culver's Cup (Madison)	James	Betsy	No tournament fee – team also has a league tournament at an undetermined location and is hosting Cardinal Cup	None	10-0-1, with Jason abstaining

Squirts can have up to three tournaments, peewees four, and bantams and HS2 five. Plans are to host a mite full-ice Cardinal Cup. SPYHA's 2005 birth year (8-year-olds) would be eligible to participate in that. There are five 2005's registered so far, Angie still has one to register for sure. Jen asked if we needed to worry or restrict what ages other teams sent. No one thought that was necessary.

Cardinal Cups are team responsibilities, not DIBS items. Teams with Cardinal Cups will be asked to elect a separate team Cardinal Cup rep/director.

For additional tournament discussion, Jason is sensitive to the distance teams have to travel. Jen pointed out that all squirt teams had Cardinal Cups, so they would be saving travel expenses there. Karen asked where team meetings would be held – probably at the arenas where practices are. The goal is to try to pick weekends so we don't buy ice. The recommendation would be a tournament either Jan. 10-12 or Jan. 24-26 for squirts, if they elect to attend one. Alternately, they could add three games.

PeeWee A team could pick one more tournament the weekend of Jan. 10-12, as they have a Cardinal Cup. PeeWee B can select two tournaments, one recommended for Jan. 10-12.

Bantam A recommendations were Eagle River and Fond du Lac. Dave made a motion seconded by Steve Traut to send the Bantam A team to Eagle River and Fond du Lac. James doesn't like the association selecting all the tournaments, although he understands that ice time is causing challenges. Betsy pointed out that there are also bigger teams for bantams this year. There was no additional discussion. Motion passed 9-1-1, with James voting no and Jason abstaining.

Bantam B recommendations are Onalaska and River Falls. Dave made a motion seconded by James to send the Bantam B team to Onalaska and River Falls. Motion passed 9-0-1, with Gary and Jason abstaining.

HS 2 didn't have any additional tournament options to consider. The two in far northwestern WI were at least five hours away.

d. Player "Play-up" Petition

An email request from Roger Turner was made to the entire Board to allow Tyson Turner to play up to squirts. Roger emailed this afternoon indicating he would not be able to attend the meeting but wished for his request to be discussed. The initial email included information that no one was moved after initial evaluations last year, and he was at the white level for the year. Jason indicated that the player is "totally ready" for squirt hockey. The parent was requested to provide information from one of last year's ADM U8 coach. Jason indicated that he had talked to Paul Vilwoc personally, and Paul had indicated he was fine with it, and was going to email the Board. No one on the Board received an email. ACE Director Troy Giese didn't know what to recommend, as the player had not been evaluated as red for the season, as other players whose parents had requested that they be allowed to play up were.

Angie had seen him skate and believed he was ready. She didn't believe the reds did anything different.

There were questions about whether the player had spent two years as a U8, as last year was the first year in our association. Jason thought he had four years of hockey.

Jason made a motion to let Tyson Turner try out for squirt hockey for the 2013-2014 season with the same parameters as established for the other two kids who were allowed to try out.

Lisa found the motion vague and felt it put a lot of pressure on evaluators. Troy indicated it does add another mark of things to keep track of.

Jen wanted to share that the Polar Caps did not let any players play up last year, and Waunakee as of this year will not even allow anyone to even petition to play up to squirts. WAHA is getting close to prohibiting players from playing up to squirts. Karen thought that would certainly make things easier.

The question was asked if we can just say no?

Lisa feels skating and maturity is an important component. She also wanted to know if this was so important, where was the parent? Why wasn't anyone there to answer the Board's questions. She doesn't have a problem with the request, but she had a problem with the tone of the email and with the parent not showing up.

Dave indicated that he wouldn't have a problem with the request, but he wants to be done. Is this the last request?

Stacy remarked that she wasn't sure that other sports allow things like this.

Jason commented that we are going to lose players to the Capitals. James countered that if they are good enough to play for the Capitals, then they can do that.

Lisa seconded the motion.

During audience comment, Jason Luxford shared that the player is a good player, and he had also coached him over the summer.

Angie was very disappointed that the parent was not present.

Mike Culbertson was frustrated about chances that had been given to some select kids in the past, and just wanted to give his kid a chance. He felt that really torques people. If he's good enough, then the coaches can determine that.

Marcie Rauls agreed, she was all for giving a kid the opportunity. If a kid excels in math, he isn't kept with the average kids.

Public comments were then closed.

Stacy asked where the player would have to fall to make the team. Jen wanted the Board to keep in mind that there are fifth graders who are ten who are also squirts. It can cause a ten-year-old who is on the bubble to not make the "A" team. There are associations that have said no, we're done, like Waunakee has done this year.

Troy said it is something directed by the Board, and the evaluators will comply with directives.

The ADM experience is different.

Karen wishes the parent had been clearer and present. Jen also indicated that having this number of players moving up to squirts also affects U8 numbers. Karen felt it does take something away from U8. Betsy indicated that at times kids have been moved up for the good of the association, not just last year, but at other levels too, in the past. Lisa thought maybe this could open other opportunities to excel for the U8's that remain.

Dave asked if the motion could be amended to shut off additional requests. Jason wanted to leave it as is, not closing it off. He hopes it is not the case.

Dave indicated he would not support the motion without amendment. Lisa wants the parent to take responsibility in this. Karen wants to know if this is something that is going to continue next year. Regarding numbers, Jason doesn't believe that we would have nine more kids coming in to the point of truly impacting squirt team size.

Dave argued that tryouts have essentially started. He doesn't want more requests.

Motion failed 4-5-2, with Gary Betsy, Steve, Dave, and James voting no, and Leah and Stacy abstaining.

Dave made a motion to allow Tyson Turner try out for squirt hockey for the 2013-2014 season with the same parameters as established for the other two kids who were allowed to try out; however, as tryouts have begun, this is the last request for this season. Lisa seconded the motion.

James commented that he would like "this season" removed.

Motion passed 5-4-2, with Betsy, James, Steve, and Gary voting no, and Stacy and Leah abstaining.

Jason requested that the following be included in the record: He is extremely disappointed that we have board members that were given the opportunity last year and wouldn't allow it for this kid.

e. Region 4 League Level Placement

SPYHA needs to submit league level placement to Region 4 by Oct. 14. This has nothing to do with state, and does not impact state/playdown seeding. Jen reviewed last year's levels and the teams in them. We generally are in league 1 and 3. Karen noted that we could be in leagues with 2A teams, which we wouldn't see in state. Jason felt that after losing almost 40% of the Squirt A players from last year it might be better to drop down a league. He could see Squirt B being in league 3.

ACE Director Troy Giese explained at SPYHA is a 1A level association: the smallest city in the state at the 1A level. That means we still have to play the 1A teams at state, even if they're not in our league, so seeing that competition early could be beneficial. B teams can generally go to level 2 or 3 - may face other association's 2A or 1B teams.

Karen pointed out that regardless you can schedule some other teams.

Motion by Lisa Squirt A – league 1/Squirt B league 3, second by Leah. Motion passed 10-0-1, with Jason abstaining.

Motion by Dave PeeWee A – league 1 / PeeWee B league 3, second by Lisa. Motion passed 10-0-1 with Jason abstaining.

Motion by Karen Bantam A – league 1 / Bantam B league 3, second by Lisa. Motion passed 10-0-1 with Jason abstaining

f. Other business

There was no other business to discuss.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Post-meeting action:

After further investigation, it was learned that the Cedar Rapids bantam tournament was not accepting A teams. As a result, Betsy made the following motion via email:

I make a motion to remove Cedar Rapids from the scheduled tournaments list for bantams (both A and B), and allow the teams to determine if they would like to go to replacement tournament, or, in the case of the B team, to the Cedar Rapids tournament, working within the schedule allowances and communicating with Chuck as appropriate/necessary.

Motion was seconded by Karen, Steve, and James (conflicting email time stamp arrivals).

Motion passed. Gary abstained.

Region 4 Meeting minutes:

League Requests due October 14th – send to Bill (Region 4 scheduler)

- scheduling meeting Oct. 20th – Noon – MIA
- team manager meeting not scheduled yet (most likely will be October 16th)

Region 4 ALD's needed: Red/White/Blue Rep and PeeWee Rep

Referee rates are staying the same this year.

WAHA Report:

USA Hockey 2 on 2 challenge – get involved and signed up!

Jerry is sick of kids asking for releases due to summer hockey programs. NO RECRUITING at summer hockey, and associations should have programs set up at their own rinks!

1st week of February – PLAYDOWNS

December 29th – seating deadline – doing it different this year:

- bringing all coaches together and having them do the seatings themselves this year – similar to WIAA.

September 18th – MIA – FALL WAHA MEETING!

- send rep to meeting
- safe sport policy – completely implement into your association this year.

Hockey Hall of Fame – WI coaches association asked to share the space. Dick Levine is the first coach inducted, from Memorial High....

*Next Region 4 Meeting – immediately following the WAHA FALL MEETING on September 18th.