

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING
MINUTES**

Saturday and Sunday, January 11-12, 2003
Harvey Suites, Irving, TX

In attendance:

Name	Assoc.	Position
Bryant, Kathy	District	Director
Callaway, Charles	District	Director
TenEyck, Mike	District	Director
Lewis, TC	District	ACE Coordinator
McAlister, Craig	District	Initiation Prgm Admn
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
VanWagoner, Jill	District	Secretary
McLaughlin, Kevin	USAH	
Schloss, Larry	AZ	President
Irey, Bryan	CO	President
Power, Tom	ID	President's Rep
Bekkedahl, Bruce	MT	President
Nolen, Bob	NM	President
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Assoc. Registrar
Andresen, Keith	TX	President
Holmes, Mike	UT	President
Bowman, Gail	WY	President
Collins, Debi	WY	Assoc. Registrar
Gould, Eric	MHOA	Referee Rep
Neumann, Cindi	TAHA	Girls/Women Div Pres
Pimm, David	OK	OAHA Treasurer

Absent: Al Bloomer, District Coach-in-Chief
 Bob McMann, District Referee-in-Chief

Brian Irey, Chairman of the Council of Presidents, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Harvey Suites in Irving, TX. A quorum was present to conduct business. He welcomed USA Hockey Representative, Kevin McLaughlin.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 6-8, 2002 meeting were not available. Bruce Bekkedahl apologized that the minutes had not been completed. Jill VanWagoner was asked to contact Shari in Great Falls to get her notes and try to reconstruct the minutes.

District Director Reports

Charles Callaway is pushing forward on district tournaments and camps and will report more later in the agenda.

Kathy Bryant reported that the Girls High Performance Camp date has changed to August 13-17, 2003 at the Arvada Apex Center.

Mike TenEyck had nothing to report for the District.

District Registrar

Bruce Karinen reported that the team count was down over 100 teams from this time last year. The number of registered tournaments is also down. The economic recession could be a major contributor to the decline. The Arizona affiliate will probably lose one association of adult teams with about 250 players. Bruce reminded everyone that the district does have a resource to help with fallout.

Risk Manager

Kelly Grover reminded the Affiliates that each registrar receives and should be distributing the insurance handbook to each team. Guidebooks are also sent to the registrars. Please follow up and make sure the books are distributed.

Coach-in-Chief

In Al Bloomer's absence, Charles Callaway gave the Coach-in-Chief report. The Initiation program is having a major problem getting paperwork back from the affiliates causing the reported numbers to be lower than actual. They are pushing to get the numbers corrected. The new coaching certification requirement is receiving resistance at the lower age house level since it is usually a "dad" who ends up coaching and doesn't want to put the time in to certification. There is a brochure available to let the coaches know what to expect from the clinics. This should be distributed to each coach before the clinic. The certification requirements are in place to protect the kids and need to be enforced.

Kevin McLaughlin handed out a copy of the new scoresheet approved for use by the USA Hockey board. The question was asked if USA Hockey insurance would be in effect if the scoresheet is not being used. Kelly Grover said he would address the question in Tampa. Bruce Karinen asked if improperly signed scoresheets after December 31, 2002 should be excluded from tournament qualification requirements for Tier I and Tier II teams. It was determined that the coach would not be qualified but the players and games would count.

Referee-in-Chief

Eric Gould reported for Bob McMann. Tournaments went well last year. The Associate Referee-in-Chief will be used in a much more active roll from now on. A senior tournament was hosted by Arizona and received rave reviews. Idaho hosted a very successful national clinic. The Tier I tournament in Colorado was worked by 57 officials, only 8 from outside the district. USA Hockey has initiated a new fee payment program this year. A flat fee for National Tournament Officials is sent directly to the National office. District Tournament referee rates are as follows:

	Tier II	Tier I
Peewee	\$60	\$80
Bantam	\$80	\$100
Midget	\$100	\$120
Girls	Not yet determined.	

This year's tournament hosts have been contacted but Bob McMann must know how many games per day per level are planned. Kathy Bryant will coordinate with Bob for Tier I, Bob Nolan for High School, Mike Holmes for Tier II Bantam and Midget, Gail Bowman for Tier II Peewee, and Keith Andresen for Girls. Bob also would like the hosts

to check into comp rooms for the officials. It was requested that Bob use as many female referees for the girls' tournament as possible.

IP Coordinator

Craig McAlister reported that coordinating the IP program with the Coach-in-Chief has been helpful this year. For the IP Clinic to be beneficial and cost effective, an attendance minimum of ten is needed. The Initiation Program material is the best USA Hockey has to give. Each Affiliate currently has an IP representative and has held a clinic this season.

Affiliate Presidents

AZ – Larry Schloss reported they have created a player and coaching development committee separate from the board but reporting to the board. Hosting the district player development camp last year helped promote the program. The girls program has been helped this year with a committee and funding. Economy has contributed to keeping registration even. High School program is continuing to grow this year, but they have a constant problem getting ice from the rinks. A challenge to the Affiliate Bylaws initiated a revision to the bylaws and left bad feelings within the Affiliate. Hopefully time will heal the breach. Tier II team parameters are in place in the Affiliate and have been challenged by local associations. The Affiliate board reviews each case and votes on it. There could be appeals to the National Youth Tournament Committee.

CO – Bryan Irey reported the high school program is close to being pure teams. This is affecting the number of Midget A and B teams. Parent seminars were made mandatory this year after a parent dispute in the stands made national news. The Tier I program has grown to 8 teams and they tend to be less than competitive out of the state. They would like to consolidate the talent to be more competitive but are being hindered by ego. Tier II quality is declining. The Mountain States League is a great help for the continuing growth of the girls program. The new rink in Ft Collins is ready to open. The overall team count is down. Adult teams administered by ice rinks are not registering due to economic problems. The Affiliate used grant money for a Referee Development program. With the expanded Tier I competition, a higher level of referees is needed. A state referee camp is being planned at the end of year using local NHL personnel. The USA Hockey financial audit was enlightening. The Affiliate hadn't filed accurate tax returns since the embezzlement. Ken Wahl is working on reconstructing the information so the Affiliate will be in compliance with the Affiliate Agreement and the IRS.

ID – Tom Powers from Coeur d'Alene reported for Mike TenEyck. Registration numbers are about the same as last year with an increase in girls' teams. McCall is building a new rink. The Idaho player development camp is Feb 21, 2003. Boise and Idaho Falls have an informal high school league running.

MT – Bruce Bekkedahl reported that they have started a high school league. There are 11 teams in 3 districts. Having districts eliminates extensive travel for league play. Glasgow and Missoula are going to break ground on new rinks. Coaching education has made big strides this year. There has been increased participation since the player development camp started to focus on a select team instead of district camp. The select team has another camp in the summer and tournament games. They have also brought evaluators from out of the area to promote unbiased selection. They encourage

all of the Affiliates to try this approach and create a district tournament for these players. Montana is planning to present a request to move to the MINKOTA district at the National meeting in Tampa.

NM – Bob Nolan reported New Mexico now has five refrigerated sheets of ice. They are hosting the high school district tournament in Santé Fe (indoor rink!) March 22nd and working on getting a tournament web site. They are adding Tier II teams this year. They are using District grant funds to make an off-ice officials training video. Development of girls' teams is a priority so girls don't have to play on the boys' teams.

OK – Ann Hetrick reported that registration is down. They need help to increase growth and stop drop out. Communication is better. There is a registration problem in Oklahoma City. They have two Midget AA teams. The High School program is working to become pure teams.

TX – Keith Andresen reported that the high school program has over 100 teams. They are starting to break out travel teams from high school teams. Dallas is ready for a Tier league with 10 high school teams. Coaching compliance is in good shape. Tier II State tournament has been reorganized to create consistency. The player development camp worked well trading evaluators with other states. Austin has created a great camp format.

UT – Mike Holmes reported that coaching certification would be 100% in compliance by the end of February. They are pushing it through the local associations. Referees are willing to check credentials. The girls' program is on the rise again. Due to the Olympics, Nike has provided \$50,000 funding for girls program subsidies. Utah is preparing to host the district bantam and midget tournaments. There is a web site for the tournament at rockymtnhockey.com.

WY – Gail Bowman reported that Coaching compliance is almost in place. They will be terminating their agreement with the State coaching coordinator for not doing the job. The number of registered players has increased although teams have not. Player development camp is in Cody this year. They are working on a program like Montana. The Jackson Hole high school team beat the Colorado team to win the district tournament. Wyoming now has six girls' teams and seven rinks.

Cross Ice Program

Kevin McLaughlin presented USA Hockey's new program. The concept has worked for years in Norwegian countries. Today's NHL players are coming from these areas. The perceived fear is kids won't think they are "playing" hockey unless they play games. This program is designed to teach hockey while making kids feel like they are "playing" hockey.

Ace Coordinator

TC Lewis reported on the program. The Ace Coordinator is responsible for coordinating training in every association. All but one affiliate now has a coordinator. TC reviewed the available resource material and handed out order forms. Every Affiliate is encouraged to have a resource library. It was suggested that the materials could be

donated to the city/county library system. It's a great program and needs to be supported at every level. See web site champsonline.com.

Tournament Host Proposal

Mike TenEyck presented a proposal from Idaho Ice World in Boise to host the 2003-4 RMD Tournament for all Tier II age groups. The group will need to present the ability to financially handle this commitment in the September meeting.

Lessons Learned from the Idaho Story

Mike TenEyck explained about the individuals who misrepresented their authority to vote at an Affiliate board meeting. They intentionally did this to skew the quorum count and voting results. When it became clear what had happened, the Affiliate held a joint meeting with USA Hockey to determine the necessary bylaw changes required to eliminate this problem in the future.

A 15 Year Perspective

Mike TenEyck is retiring as an affiliate president due to his District Director responsibilities. He shared his affiliate president views of the District progression over the last 15 years from autonomy to democracy.

District Tournament Review

Girls - March 5-9, 2003. Cindy Newman is the Local Tournament director. There is concern for the amount of school that will be missed. The participating teams need to know if they are required to stay at the host hotel. The group agreed to stay at the host hotel. The written policy will be dealt with in Sunday's meeting.

Tier II – Packets need to be sent to the participating teams. Pee wee credential books need to be sent to Bruce Karinen as soon as possible. Because there are ten teams in each division, a random drawing was held to determine which team would move up to the A Bracket. Midget Major will be the 10th team to be selected, Bantam will be Oklahoma and the 10th team to be selected, and Pee wee will be Utah.

District Player Development Camp

Charles Callaway presented the financial report for last year's player development camp and this year's proposed budget. Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the budget as presented. Bob Nolen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The format will be identical to last year. Eligible boys are birth years 1986-89 and eligible girls are birth years 1984-89. The player allocation was presented by hand out. Please make sure the affiliate contact is correct as presented.

Summer Meeting

The summer meeting will be in Salt Lake City September 5-7, 2003.

District Director Election Procedure

Nominations for District Director will be accepted during the month of February. Kathy Bryant's term is expiring. Ballots will go out in April with number of votes based on team count.

Minnesota High School Tournament

Mike Holmes reported that the team that was supposed to go to the tournament ended up backing out. The Minnesota tournament representative was very negative about the Rocky Mountain District so Mike took two Austin and two New Mexico boys to the tournament. He filled the team with Minnesota players. The two Austin boys reported to Charles Callaway about the great experience they had. The kids were amazed that they were able to hold their own in the competition. There were about 40 scouts from the NHL and Division 1 colleges. They were overheard to say they would like to see more Rocky Mountain players in the future. Mike Holmes made a **MOTION** to include the Minnesota High School Elite Tournament team selection in the player development camp. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Annual Volunteer Award

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to approve the Annual Volunteer Award that was presented in the last meeting. Bob Nolen seconded the motion. Larry Schloss added a friendly amendment to clarify "director" as "Rocky Mountain District Director". Charles accepted the friendly amendment and the motion passed unanimously.

25 August 2002

Rocky Mountain District

Annual Volunteer Award

The Rocky Mountain District will recognize annually a "Grass Roots" Volunteer at the District meeting held during the USA Hockey annual Congress each June.

Selection Committee

The selection committee for this award will be composed of the Rocky Mountain District Directors. The senior Director in tenure will serve as the committee chair.

Nominations

The Affiliate Presidents will make all nominations that are forwarded to the Selection Committee. Any person may make their recommendations to their respective Affiliate President. The Affiliate President may forward only one nomination to the Selection Committee. The Affiliate President should write a letter of why this person(s) should be considered for the award. All information must be to the Selection Committee chair by 1st March.

Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the Selection Committee. Additional criteria may be used at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

- A. Length of service at the Association, Affiliate, or District level
- B. Type of volunteer work performed
- C. Contributions to hockey
- D. Other

Current serving Directors, Affiliate Presidents and USA Hockey Rocky Mountain District personnel shall not be eligible for this award. All nominees must have been a resident of the Rocky Mountain District during their volunteer service.

Award Presentation

The District Chair will present the award at the District June meeting. The Selection Committee will notify the award recipient by 1st May and invite the honoree to the USA Hockey Annual Congress at the District expense. The District will reimburse the honoree up to \$800 for expenses upon submittal of an expense report.

02 Aug 25

New Scoresheet Requirement

The coach must sign every scoresheet effective 1-1-03 including their certification information. This does not disqualify the scoresheet from the 10/20 district qualification. Page 148 of the annual guide clarifies that improper coach qualification does not disqualify the scoresheet from the 10/20 rule.

District Lunch

There will be a free lunch at USA hockey meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2003 in Colorado Springs.

Tier II Recruiting

Mike Holmes reported that a waiver was granted to an Arizona team allowing them to remain a Tier II team for the 2002-03 season. They registered an Idaho goalie on a Midget Minor team, which according to the policy would qualify them as Tier I. They claim the team was registered before the rule change, therefore the waiver was granted. New Mexico requested a waiver when a goalie that had moved from New Mexico to Colorado returned to New Mexico after not being selected by a team in Fort Collins. Since there were no options left for him in Colorado, he returned to New Mexico to play. They requested a waiver saying it was not recruiting. Since the waiver was granted to Arizona, the board decided that it should also be granted to New Mexico.

Because of this issue it is important to clarify the timing of policy changes and state effective dates. There was discussion regarding the District's ability to make policy that would disqualify a team from participating in a national event if they were otherwise qualified under USA Hockey rules. Bruce Karinen noted that as long as the Youth Council has approved the District policy, it stands. There is not a standard Tier II ruling throughout USA Hockey. Bob Nolen made a **MOTION** to approve the added language to Section 1. Keith Andresen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Larry Schloss made a **MOTION** for the change to be effective when approval is received from USA Hockey. Mike TenEyck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, January 12, 2003

Bryan Irey reconvened the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Job Descriptions

The following position descriptions of the RMD Web Master and Secretary were accepted by motion in the September meeting. It was noted that it is becoming impossible to function today without the Internet. Mike Holmes suggested that it might be beneficial to have the web master at the meetings so the information on the website would be current. Bob Nolen said it's not getting the information on the web, it's getting the information to put on the web. COMMUNICATION is the key.

Rocky Mountain District

Web Master

Position Description

Duties and responsibilities of the RMD Web Master:

- Appointed by the RMD Council of Presidents.
- Report directly to the Chair of the Council of Presidents.
- The Web Master shall not have a vote at any meetings of the Rocky Mountain District.
- Post in a timely fashion pre-approved information
- Maintain the integrity of the site to align with the USA Hockey home site.
- Attend web site seminars and workshops as directed and approved by the RMD Council of Presidents.
- Prepare annual website progress statements and submit to Chair of the Council of Presidents.
- Attend the RMD's Annual or Mid-winter meeting as needed.

Rocky Mountain District

Secretary

Position Description

Duties and responsibilities:

- Appointed by the RMD Council of Presidents.
- Report directly to the Chair of the Council of Presidents.
- The Secretary shall not have a vote at any meetings of the Rocky Mountain District.
- The Secretary shall keep the records of the Rocky Mountain District, direct correspondence and issue notices of all meetings as charged, and perform any additional duties usual to this position.
- Attend the RMD's Annual and Mid-winter meetings.
- Maintain and update the RMD Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Prepare minutes of RMD meetings immediately following such meetings.
- Expenses for travel and lodging to and from Rocky Mountain District Meetings shall be included as part of the operating budget.

Policy & Procedure Changes

Section 5 District Tournament

To deal with the subject of the host hotel at the District Tournaments, Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to copy the national policy as noted in the annual guide page 161 to be subsection 5 and to renumber the remaining subsections. Kathy Bryant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. It reads:

Accommodations for each team shall be arranged for at a first-class facility at the best possible rate. Unless otherwise requested by the teams, these accommodations shall be enough to house twenty-five (25) people per team with two to a room. They shall make certain that there are adequate food facilities open during the hours that the teams will need them. The expense is the responsibility of each team. At the District tournament, all team members and staff that require hotel reservations are required to stay in the host hotel(s). The penalty will be the full price of the rooms for the entire tournament. The involved Affiliate will be responsible to collect the monies and forward them to the District Registrar.

Section 19 High School Playoff

Charles Callaway made a **MOTION** to replace Section 19 with the proposed verbiage to be consistent with the current Policy and Procedure Manual. Bob Nolen seconded the

motion. After discussion, a friendly amendment was made to add (s) to registration in the second sentence of the last paragraph and to remove the remainder of the sentence in paragraph four after resides in geographical boundaries. The effective date of the policy will be 4-1-03. The motion passed unanimously.

Girls' Chicago Showcase

The question was asked about the selection procedure for girls to go to the Chicago Showcase. Because the Showcase highlights junior and senior age girls, younger girls were not selected. Skill level was not considered if the player wasn't of junior or senior age. The selected players attend player development camp, high performance camp, and then the Showcase. It was requested to post the procedure and selection results on the web site and to link the girls' site to the district site.

Compliance with District Policy

Mike TenEyck reported that some members feel the board picks and chooses which policies to follow. Special care needs to be taken to avoid all signs of conflict of interest.

2004 Player Development Camp

As noted in the policy manual, the 2004 Player Development Camp will be held in Utah.

Review of Friday's Strategic Planning Meeting

Since communication is important to this project, we need to get each affiliate board and each association to answer the questionnaire (less the 1% responded). The responses need to be reported back to the associations as well as putting them on the web. A common thread topic should be chosen to work on each year. The following were discussed:

Fees

Expectations of their coaches

Opportunities at local affiliate

Assistance chain of command

Titles and jobs

History

Players career goals in hockey

Expectations of parents

Expectations of players

Players expectations of USA Hockey

Skater development

 Coaching education

 Referee education

 Aids for referee support

 Coaching education trainer

 Player/parent/coach/manager meetings on a regular basis

The reasonable course going forward is to layout the process and continue to work on it Friday nights at 7:00 PM before the meetings. Come to the summer meeting prepared to tell each other what we do well.

Kelly's Ode – submit to District Doings

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes of September 2002 meeting.

Add web link to rockymtnhockey.com for the Tier II Bantam/Midget Tournament.

Put procedure and selection results for the Girls' Chicago Showcase on the web.

Link the girls' web site to the district site.

Idaho Ice World proposal to 2004 district tournament in Boise.