

# NCYHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - 3/3/14

Meeting held at the Pennfield School



## Attendees:

**Board Members:** Kevin Sullivan, John Stahl, Todd Clark, Frank Toner, Marilyn Stookey, Jen Lopes, Paul Grimes, Dan O'Connor, Randy Borges, (MJ Bregenhoj)

**Advisory Group Members:** Scot West, Kristin Browne, Gina DeSantis, Barbara Klassner, Beth Jackson, Patrick Cavanaugh, Hal Newman, Colin Jackson, Angelo Grilli

## Old Business

### Introductions -

#### Board of Directors Elections – Kevin

- **Vice President** - John Stahl reelected.
- **Scheduler** - Andy Bellagamba elected.
- **Travel Registrar** - Marilyn Stookey reelected.
- **Travel Program Director** - Kevin Sullivan elected.
- **Member at Large** - Todd Clark reelected.
- **Secretary** - MJ Bregenhoj elected.

#### New Advisory Board Appointments – Kevin

- **Midget Level Director** - Patrick Cavanaugh
- **Equipment Manager** - Gina DeSantis
- **Sponsorship Co-Director** - Hal Newman
- **Special Events Director** - Angelo Grilli
- Might be good to find others to help with special events.
- **Girls' Program Director** - Beth Jackson

#### Other Committees

- Several on the Xmas Tournament committee. - Jeannine Moniz, Mike Brennan, Greg O'Shea, Ian Clemmey, Keith Marshall
- Equipment Sale Committee – Barbara Feld, Kelly Richards

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2/3/14 – Kevin

- **Approved.**

#### LTS Update? – Dan

- Season ended Sunday.
- Lots of parents and coaches were involved this year.
- It would be good to have an assistant director to focus on organizing coaches.
- There isn't much guidance from USA Hockey on Learn to Skate.
- Had great numbers first session, some kids moved up to Mites mid-year, still good numbers for second session.

#### MDP Update – Scot

- Finished at SG yesterday. Two jamborees to go – Burrillville, SWS
- 83 kids in the program.
- Would love to see prices stay the same for next year. (likely all fees go up 3% next year.)
- Now \$438, was \$425 last year. Keep it affordable.
- 50 returning Mite aged kids next year.
- Kids can get a bit bored after 2-3 years in MDP. Looking for more after that.
- Kevin to talk to Roger about that – ways to keep kids engaged.

**House League Update? - Randy**

- Had a few coaches showing up all the time –
- An issue with goalie equipment.
- Question to check with USA hockey – any insurance issues when a player “plays down?” (Heater noise and search for new meeting room got in the way of note taking.)

**NCYHA Apparel - Kevin, Kristin**

- Kevin talked with John, said that Kristin would be the contact.
- Kristin checked with John. He wants to improve things. We’ll give him another year.
- Chris Winnes offered to hang some samples.
- Angelo will help – knows John.
- John should come to the rink at some point with samples.

**Travel Team Injury Survey – Paul**

- No update. Need to produce survey.

**Injuries, Concussions – Colin**

- Is there ever a situation where the program prevents someone from playing travel hockey if their skills are deficient and there’s concern about their safety?
  - We have tried to give the kids the opportunity to play and leave the decision to them.
- Is there ever a situation where a coach can prevent a player from returning to play too soon?
  - Nothing in place at this point as a procedure for returning to play.
  - Concussion awareness is so much greater now. Coaching modules help.
- Should we have a policy about returning to play, or continuing to play in the game after a potential concussion?
  - Yes. Consider this for next year’s coaches/teams.

**Procedure/event Schedule – Kevin, John, Frank**

- John has it started.

**Girls’ Program Ideas – Beth Jackson**

- Supplemental girl’s program - could be open to all ages, or older girls could help out.
- 25 girls in Mites and Squirt C right now
- 1 day a week supplement - Not a stand-alone replacement for travel or house. In any conflicts, a player’s main team is her travel team.
- But - why treat girls any differently than boys – especially at younger ages? They will get better the longer they stay with the boys.
  - Camaraderie amongst the girls - for the younger kids, it’s the highlight. May help to keep these girls playing into older age groups.
- This has been tried before.
- What’s the downside? Not much. Might be a bit more expensive than initially planned.
- Scheduling issues? - Need to check on ice availability to figure out the number of sheets.
- Beth to check with Jim/Andy about ice time. Focus on 15 practices for now.

### **Spring Tryout Fees/Policy – John**

- We have talked about a non-refundable deposit to keep kids from trying out, and then leaving to play for another team. What if we go up to \$200 this year?
  - Every program deals with this. Lots of programs require a lot more up-front.
  - Two categories of kids drop out – those who are shopping around, and those who are on the lower end of the skill level. Some just go for the experience.
  - It's tough if a kid just decides not to play hockey between tryouts and the season.
  - Motion that we raise the tryout fee to \$200. Seconded, - **Approved.**
  - If there are cuts, how much should we retain from a player who is cut? - \$50.
  - What if they shift to house league? - Handle individually, treat the same as cuts - \$50.
  - Apply financial aid to tryout fee as well - in same percentage as previous season?
    - Use case by case basis.
  - What about those who are not current on payments for this season . . .? – Case by case.
- Do we need a policy on kids playing up? What if 10 mites tryout for Squirts this year? We used to have distinct steps in Mites. 3 played up this year. What if a Squirt would get cut and a Mite takes his place?
- Mite A's played cross ice, then full ice, now don't want to play cross ice again.
  - 12 Mite A's will move up into squirts – 5 will be 7 year olds.

### ***New Business***

#### **2014-2015 Travel Team Fees – Marilyn**

- Last two years – 3% increase each year.
- Frank thinks that would work for this year.
- Will there be more ice available next year? If no huge changes, another 3% will do.
- Frank will look into it further – won't be lower than 3% but we'll try to keep it close.
- We should spell it out before tryout registration opens.

#### **Bylaw Change? – Paul**

- Shift MDP Director to BOD and House Registrar to Advisory Board?
- Seems to be in line with the structure of the organization at this time.
- Paul to draw up a proposal for next meeting.

#### **RI/SNEHC Hockey Update, State Meetings - Kevin**

- 4 programs from the Cape League have asked to join our league. Nantucket, MV, Lower Cape, and Dennis/Yarmouth. 3 programs willing to do all games here. MV has A teams, other programs are B/C level teams only. Scheduling challenges with this. They were voted in on a one-year trial basis.
- Hetland wants their Bantam and Midget teams to play in our league this year. They were voted in on a one-year trial basis.
- Sports Ngin for websites – as long as everyone's transaction fees are in line with what they pay now, the member organizations are probably going to switch to Sports Ngin.
- The Sting and Spitfires have requested to play a half-season schedule with some of our teams at the B and C level. They are looking for some additional games. The games would not count toward standings. Seems like a recruiting mission. We think probably not – they are free to schedule scrimmages anyway.

**Jerseys – Jen**

- Cost of travel jerseys for next year? = What Hockey Tron charges – no NCYHA subsidies next year.
- Email needed to all to send blue travel jerseys back to Jen for a replacement patch.
- Are new jerseys going to have the patches or silk-screening?
- Socks – not good. Should we get samples of new ones? - Yes.
- Practice Jerseys – a new one comes with each set of travel jerseys.
- Replacement practice jerseys will need to be purchased.

**Next Board Meeting Date/Time/Place – Paul**

- Monday, March 31st.