

Alaska State Hockey Association
Board Meeting
February 7, 2009

Members present: Corey Millen, Brian Graff, Todd Green, Robbie Snelson, Scott Hulse, Keith Martin, Lynn Thompson, Wayne Sawchuk, Jack Tragis, Keith Berrian, Rick Eckert, Dan Massie, Keith Morris, John Robertson, Pete Sloan, Sally Wright (alt.), and James Williams (alt.).

Officers present: Cullen Wallace, Joe Newhouse, Rosalie Nadeau, Margo Dreyer, Brian Gross, Dennis Sorenson and Gary Hardwick.

USA Hockey officials present: Bruce Urban, Lynn Beehler-Urban, Mark Brooks, Connie Hardwick, Joe Barth and John Jolly.

The meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Cullen Wallace.

James Williams was seated by the Boys & Girls Club.

Introductions were made of all present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed as read.

There were no persons to be heard.

President's report—see attached report from Cullen Wallace.

Treasurer's report—Joe Newhouse did comment that right now there was a lot of money, but the main bills have not been paid such as state tournament expenses.

VP of Tournaments—Gary Hardwick stated that the schedules were done and handed out at the meeting—Also, two state trophies have been misplaced, Pee Wee Tier II has been replaced and he just found out about the U16 Tier II trophy being missing at the board meeting, it will be replaced if not found in a timely manner.

VP of Comp—Rosalie Nadeau stated that they are putting together a committee to take a look at the Mite division. With the new registration dates taking effect this season, the comp council will be taking a look at the August 1st start date for league games. The comp council unanimously approved to allow a Squirt Tier II player to play Squirt Tier III due to illness (this will be discussed under new business).

While in Juneau, Rosalie talked to Joe Paskvan, Pete Peterson and Kevin Meyer about the legal situation of the referees. She put in them in touch with Paul Davis (AHO's attorney) and will be working on language for exempting referees—please get in touch with your reps and let them know to contact one of the above reps – IF AHO loses Child Labor will probably not allow any one under 16 to referee.

VP of House—Brian Gross stated to remind your house teams that the house teams were randomly drawn at the last House Council meeting—He requested an exemption for the 8 games for a player. This will be taken up under new business.

VP of Girls—Margo Dreyer stated that the Girls/Women Council of USA Hockey met at the mid winter meeting and discussed the definition of Tier I & II girls, they have almost finalized the wording and when it is done, she will get it to the representatives. The Adult Council will be having an over 50 tournament for Women in Florida—Every girl/woman should be receiving the Girls/Women newsletter, if not getting it, then please let Margo know—Fairbanks is working hard on the Pacific District Tournament—Alaska Affiliate tryouts went well almost 80 girls tried out—There will be a player development camp for 12, 13, and 14 year old girls in Las Vegas in July, this will be a joint camp put on by the Northern Plains, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Districts. There will also be a girls tournament April 10-12 for those teams losing at district level in Las Vegas, contact Margo for more information on that—This is Margo's last year sitting on the board—she will remain on as the Pacific District Girls/Women's rep—if you have anybody that wishes to do the state position let Jack know.

VP of Adult—Dave Hurst was excused as he was at the Adult tournament at Subway.

VP Player Development—Dennis Sorenson reported that they are working on district camp now --Next year they are talking about splitting selects into 2 weekends and are also talking about doing a 13 year old development camp.

Disciplinary—John Jolly, see attached report—He did ask if a league game at the house level has the same implications as the comp level.

Pacific District Director – Bruce Urban is working on getting district tournaments finalized and there are 27 teams in 6 divisions in the Girls/Women's district—Thanks to Fairbanks and the All Stars for all their assistance. He is working on the selects and the fees should remain the same as last years level. This is the last year for district tournaments at Tier II. Thanks to all those that helped out in the Icing Pilot program.

USA Hockey Director at Large - Lynn Beeher-Urban discussed the National Tournament format for the Tier II level. She also discussed the new American Development Program that USA Hockey is working on. Information on this program can be accessed through the USA Hockey website. The rule changes are up on the USA Hockey website also. Remember, that the new measurements for goalie gear takes effect next season, possible waiver for last year midgets. Lynn would like to know how coaches and players feel about the offsides and icing rules—please get in touch with her by email or phone. She discussed the High Performance club at length and at this point feels there are too many unanswered questions, she recommends getting someone up from the National staff to discuss the High Performance Club and the ADM model.

Risk Manager—Suzy Coronel was not here, but stated she needed to get all reports on any injuries that require the player to go to the hospital right away.

Associate Registrar—Connie Hardwick reported that registration will begin May 1st this season and games will start counting towards national tournament on August 1st. Any association changing registrars for the 2009-10 season, please contact Connie right away as they will be sending out next seasons software in late April/Early May time frame. There have been 2 credential books with birth certificates stolen in the past month, please tell managers do not carry birth certificates in their books. Beginning next season, birth certificates will not be kept by managers for any teams in the Pacific district.

Ace Coordinator—Mark Brooks had nothing to report.

Juniors—Jack Tragis stated that Playoffs begin in April and anyone interested in running for any of the board positions, please contact him.

2nd reading of tryout schedule--passed

1st reading—Do away with the VP of Tournament position and allow the councils to run their respective state tournaments. The councils will appoint a person to run the tournaments and the VP of the Girls/Women's, Comp and Rec council will report on the status of their tournaments at the board meetings—some discussion followed.

Brian Gross motioned that Hannah Mikols of Homer Girls team be given a waiver on the 8 games required since she has been out of the country with her parents—motioned is 2nd and passes.

Jamie Smith motioned to allow a Big Lake Squirt Tier II player to play at the Squirt Tier III state tournament—motion was 2nd and passed (see attached report from Jamie).

Board Member Comments

Rosalie—Thanks to everyone who has helped her while her daughter who has been seriously injured is recovering.

Lynn Thompson—Thanks to Bruce for help in scheduling of Girls/Women's District Tournament.

Cullen—Thanks to Margo for her time with the Girls/Women Council.

The next ASHA meeting will be held April 18, 2009, at 10:00 at the Coast Inn in Anchorage. This is the Annual Meeting.

Presidents report:

Mid- Annual Meeting in Orlando

The main topic of conversation during all the meetings and in the hallways is the new long term athlete development and high performance clubs. While there are a lot of rumors and half truths running around, once you get past the proposed 36 high performance clubs, the rest of the program has a lot of merit and needs to be looked at very closely by both ASHA and the individual affiliates. I have asked the youth hockey people from USA Hockey's national office to send some people here for our annual meeting to give you a better run down on the programs which will hopefully separate fact from fiction.

I made a presentation on the results of our icing pilot program to the Youth Council. Based upon the comments made and questions asked, I would guess that this will not pass as a rule change at the Annual Congress in June. The Youth Council is only one segment of the body but the general feeling among that group was that this is too radical a change since we would be the only governing body in the world who would be playing under this rule. However, just so you are aware, Canada is looking very seriously at making this change as well.

The Affiliate President's meeting was uneventful for the most part but there are a couple of things you need to be aware of that we did discuss. The tier II super tournament will be held in 2010. The original presentation on this was that all the individual state champions would be invited to a mega tournament which would crown one champion at the end of the weekend. However, that is not the case. Each age group will be divided up into 4 individual tournaments which will be based upon the registration numbers in the State. Basically, it will be a 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A divisions each deciding a champion. This means that in each age group, we will have 4 National Champions. I was very disappointed to hear that this format was going to be used. I feel that we were sold a bag of goods on this tournament. I would not have supported moving to this kind of tournament had this been presented in the original discussions. Also, by doing away with District tournaments at the tier II level, this will mean that many areas will not have the opportunity to gain the experience for a volunteer base needed to host a large, multi-affiliate tournament. This would mean that the number of potential hosts of a mega tournament will be limited.

Another big issue which Dan will cover more of is the moving of the start of the season to May 1st. We discussed this at our January board meeting. This is not a big deal but the other shoe that dropped in this decision is that Nationally bound teams can start counting games August 1st. I think this is a very bad decision. I want ASHA to use Labor Day weekend as a start date. I think if we don't set a later date than USAH, we will end up with teams wanting to play year round. Is that really what we want?

At the Pacific District Affiliate President's meeting, we selected the winner's of this year's Anderson Awards. The winner of the Dempsey Anderson Award for commitment to coaching went to Greg Goodale from MatSu Hockey Associatoin.