

Alaska State Hockey Association  
Board Meeting  
January 3, 2009

**Members present:** Corey Millen, Martha Stramp, Brian Graff, Rob Snelson, Annetta Powell, Jamie Smith, Wayne Sawchuk, Rick Eckert, Mark Koeckritz, Tom Fisher, Keith Morris, Pete Sloan, Lynn Thompson, Keith Martin, Destrey Lind (alt.), Diane Firmani (alt.)and Eric Troisi (alt.).

**Officers present:** Cullen Wallace, Brenda Luthi, Dave Hurst, Brian Gross and Dennis Sorenson.

**USA Hockey officials present:** Lynn Beehler-Urban, Dan Rogness, Connie Hardwick, Mark Brooks, Chris Milles, Joe Barth and John Jolly.

**Visitors present:** Lisa McPheters and Becky Beckett.

President Cullen Wallace called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M. Introductions were made of all present. A moment of silence was held for Chris Scully, an adult hockey player who passed away recently.

**Seating of members:**

Rob Snelson	Jr. Aces
Keith Martin	FAHA
Lynn Thompson	FAHA
Diane Firmani	MAHA alternate
Eric Troisi	Jr. Avalanche alternate

The agenda was approved with three additions. The minutes were approved as submitted with one change: Homer Hockey is not hosting the Bantam D State Tournament due to the fact that they are not fielding a Bantam D team this year.

**Correspondence:** One piece was passed around for members to view.

**Persons to be heard:** There were none.

**VP House Council:** Brian Gross reported that there were no Midget D teams this year, so there will only be a Midget (U-18) C state tournament in Fairbanks. He also stated that the Bantam D state tournament will be held in Anchorage (AHA) instead of Homer. Brian discussed the concept of several bush teams putting together a Bantam C tournament team to participate in the state tournament. Brian moved and Mark Koeckritz seconded to allow this Bantam C team to enter the state tournament and be exempt from the 8-game rule. Discussion followed and the motion was defeated.

**President's Report:** Cullen Wallace reported that he needs some final feedback on the pilot icing program. He appreciates the feedback that has been given through the forms.

This topic will be voted on in June at the National Meeting, and he wants to have Alaska's true feelings on this. He is working on some handbook changes that need to be taken care of this year. He also needs a report from each association stated that they have been doing proper parent education.

**Finance Report:** No report.

**VP Tournaments:** (see attached).

**VP Comp Council:** Pete Sloan reported for Rosalie Nadeau. There was a meeting of the Comp Council prior to the State Board Meeting. In their discussion at this meeting, time was an issue with the icing program. The Comp Council recommended staying in the four-day format for the Squirt Tier II State Tournament, and they would like to see the championship game be held at Ben Boeke I. The Comp Council also recommended not allowing the Jr. Avalanche Midget U-18 team into the state tournament due to not completing paperwork on time. They recommended letting the Might Moose field a Mite Comp team next season.

**VP Girls/Women:** No report.

**VP Adult Council:** Dave Hurst reported that things are running quite smoothly.

**VP Player Development:** Dennis Sorenson reported that the Select Camps will be held in Seattle (Kent) WA. April 23-26 will be the 14 & 15-year-olds. April 30-May 3 will be the 16 & 17-year-olds. The Alaska Select Camp was held in December over a two-day span. There were over 200 kids in the camps. He is contemplating holding the camps over two weekends this coming year. The lists will be up for Select Camps by January 10<sup>th</sup>. There were many medical requests for 14-year-olds, but those are hard to grants because players at this age do not have much history to draw upon. He thanked the evaluators: Dan Massie, Keith Morris, Wayne Sawchuk, Cullen Wallace, Justin Marcum, Eric Simmons, Jeff Sizemore, Chris Knauss and Bill Sturdevant. He will announce next year's Select dates at the February meeting.

**Discipline Committee:** John Jolly reported that as of January 3, 2009:

- We heard 5 Match Penalties since the November meeting:
  - 4 Adult League – 3 in Anchorage and 1 in Fairbanks
  - 3 Conduct detrimental to the game and 1 attempt to injure an opponent
  - 1 Youth player in Anchorage for a deliberate injury to an opponent, checking Behind
- We have had two matters referred to us for supplementary discipline:
  - 1 Coach for approaching the opponent's bench after an injury to one of his Players
  - 2 Youth players who weren't given Game Misconducts that should have
- We also broke some new ground and heard a complaint regarding a referee's conduct. After hearing the matter, the ASHA Discipline Review Committee

along with AHO's local supervisor (Mr. Galines) handed out a suspension and probation.

- 601's – We have had two more since November's meeting; this brings the year-to-date total to eight. One Palmer Hockey has dealt with, and one SAMM needs to submit their report by the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. This is exactly where we were (8) at this time last year.
- Collections – Our one player who hadn't cleared his debt from last year finally surfaced and has paid his debt in full. As of right now, we do not have any ineligible players. However, we do have one that is in the process of being properly notified of an outstanding debt. If the matter is not cleared up by January 11, 2009, this player will be declared ineligible. John will talk to the representative of the association who this player is reported to be playing with.
- In an attempt to clean collections up before the season ends, each association should make sure they have their policies in place to collect owed money prior to the State Tournament.

**Director-at-Large:** Lynn Beehler-Urban reported that the rule change proposals are on the website for all to see. She said they are also looking into the National Development Program.

**Associate Risk Manager:** Suzy Coronel sent her report stating the associations need to make Suzy aware of any injuries/illnesses that occur during any USAH sanctioned event within 24 hours of that injury/illness. She will need the date and location of the injury (illness), name, age, contact information for the players, phone numbers and email addresses for the parents/guardians, as well as any details that are available about the situation. This enables here to follow up with the families and provide assistance.

**Registrar:** Dan Rogness presented the registration year date change information recommendation. (see attached).

**Associate Registrar:** Connie Hardwick went over the USAH member counts (see attached). She reminded everyone that the house team rosters are due January 31, 2009, and they don't have to be signed by the players.

Connie also reminded everyone that the State Tournament trophies are due at the February State Board Meeting. She also needs the credential meeting dates at the February meeting.

**Referee-in-Chief:** Chris Milles discussed the situation of the complaint and suspension of a referee. He also said they will be very busy during the state tournaments.

Joe Barth reported that AHO had lost their challenge with the state on the unemployment insurance. An appeal is in process with the Supreme Court. They are waiting on a letter from the attorneys to get out to all of us to clarify our stand. Cullen Wallace and Joe Barth will be the official spokesmen to the news media.

**Coach-in-Chief:** Cullen Wallace is looking for someone to take over this position. Names are to be submitted to Colorado Springs, they then will interview and select a person for this position.

**ACE Coordinator:** Mark Brooks reported that there are approximately 290 coaches in our system, not counting the Level 4 coaches. There are 27 temporary cards out. He gave a thanks to Eric Troisi for his help in the valley. The clinic dates for next year will be ready for the February meeting. Cullen gave a thanks to Mark for helping out with the coach-in-chief duties.

**Web Site:** Dennis Sorenson will be the contact person who will take care of any questions or problems.

**Jr. Hockey Report:** No report.

**Old Business:**

Cullen reminded everyone that there are 10 days left to get the reports on the icing pilot program to Bruce Urban.

**New Business:**

Jamie Smith moved and John Robertson seconded to allow the Jr. Avalanche Midget Tier I U-18 teams into the state tournament. Discussion followed regarding this issue on not declaring by the November meeting. The motion failed.

Brian Graff moved and Pete Sloan seconded that comp try-outs for all youth Tier I and Tier II may not start sooner than the first Friday at 3:00 P.M. following the conclusion of National Tournaments. For this coming try-out year, that would mean April 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed. This was counted as a first reading for a rulebook change.

Connie Hardwick presented the idea to make the 9-team and 10-team tournament formats be reduced from four days to three days. Martha Stramp moved and Annetta Powell seconded to approve these changes pending endorsement of the House Council.

Please note that there is a date change for the Squirt Tier II State Tournament from the handbook. It is a four-day tournament March 5-8.

**Board Member Comments:**

Tom Fisher thanked Dennis Sorenson for a job well done at the Selects.

John Robertson mentioned that he had parents who were concerned about a girl's team playing a team two levels above them.

Cullen Wallace is looking at allocating funds to update the Alaska Hockey logo. He also mentioned that Jack Traxis will be in charge of the nominating committee. He feels we need a strong state tournament director for next election.

The next meeting will be Saturday, February 7, 2009, at 10:00 at the Coast Inn in Anchorage.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Luthi  
ASHA Secretary