



PNAHA General Winter Meeting

January 8, 2005

Red Lion Hotel

Wenatchee, Washington

Weather conditions across the state of Washington and Oregon had impeded travel to this meeting resulting in a late start. The meeting was called to order by President, Donna Kaufman at 9:23 a.m.

1. Sign-In

- Sign-in sheets distributed and on official record with these minutes.

2. Introductions

- Personal introductions made by the PNAHA Board, Directors and special guests.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

- Reading of the September 11, 2004 minutes. Dru stated that there were two corrections she made to the distributed minutes. Debbie Abrams had attended the last meeting representing Walla Walla and Steve Stevens had made the motion that Spokane be awarded the bid to host the "B" State Tournament instead of Donna Kaufman. Chris Raub requested that his last name spelling be corrected. Motion by Dave Bittenbender (PNAHA VP) [*to approve minutes*], seconded by Mark Preston (WEN). Motion passed – unanimous.

4. Treasurer Report – Dru Hammond

- A copy of the January 8 Treasurer Report was distributed to the Board of Directors. Balance as of January 8, 2005 is \$34,018.72. Motion by John Petruzzelli (Kent) [*to accept Treasurer Report as presented*], seconded by Kristin Videto (PST). Motion passed - unanimous.
- A copy of the approved 2004-2005 budget was distributed.
- Copies of the Philadelphia Insurance Company Directors & Officers Policy were distributed. This Policy also shows those sub-organizations (PNAHA Associations) endorsed as additionally insured.

5. Special Guests

- Donna shared that Frank Lang had planned on attending but that due to the weather conditions his flight into Wenatchee was cancelled. He has returned to California. A special welcome was extended to Floyd Johnson, representing the Bremerton Ice Arena.

6. Director's Reports

A. Coaching Director – Rob Kaufman

- Rob was unable to attend this meeting because he was holding a Coaching Clinic. Dru Hammond (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) provided the Coaching Director report in his absence.
- The 2004-2005 Player Development Camp would be held in the Tri-Cities February 12/13, 2005. Player selections are due back by next week so that invitations can be sent out. This year some changes have been implemented. A lot of coordination goes into conducting this camp and it is important that each association contribute to the success of this event. Each association has been requested to identify at least one volunteer to be available to work at the camp this year. If the individual is select to participate as a group leader than that individual will be provided with a room as well. Other areas where volunteers are needed are registration, hall monitoring and basic runners.
- The host hotel for parents is the Pasco Red Lion.
- Dru indicated that they were pleased to announce that this year's Development Camp would truly reflect a campus environment. Players will be housed at the new AmeriSuites, meals would be served at the TRAC Sports Hall of Fame as well as any scheduled seminars, and all games will be played at the TRAC Pavillion. This arrangement should prove to be very cost effective, allowing for PNAHA to maintain the \$125.00 registration fee. If you have any questions you can contact Rob at pshcrkauf@aol.com.
- The Pacific District Select Camp will be held April 29, 30 and May 1 in Vancouver, Washington. Dru stated that it is important for the association Coaching Director and coaches to discuss the camp with the players and their families so that they are aware of the commitment involved. Those players advancing from the State Development Camp are required to forward a check in the amount of \$350.00 to PNAHA who will forward funds on to Pacific District.

- Ed Imes (USA Hockey Associate Registrar/Risk Manager) reminded those in attendance not to send non-U.S. Citizens to these camps.
- Everyone was reminded that effective January 1, 2005 that coaches must have the appropriate credentials to be on the bench and/or ice.
- Associations are responsible for verifying what coaching certification level their active coaches possess. If it has been over three (3) years, they will need to take the next level or current Level 3 (Intermediate). Coaches can take a “refresher” clinic on-line at www.USAHockey.com if they do not need Level Four (4) certification. It is imperative that associations evaluate how many coaches will be required to hold Level 4 certification for next season. The certification class is held in Reno the second or third week of August. Everyone was encouraged to read the USA Hockey Rules for Coaching Certification specifics.
- It was stressed that as of January 1, 2005 of this season, prior to the start of the game, all coaches (Head and Assistant) present, from each team, are required to sign the designated area of the score sheet in order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the score sheet, for that game. In addition, all coaches (Head and Assistant) must include their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP) card number, their CEP level (1= Initiation, 2=Associate, 3=Intermediate, 4=Advanced, or 5=Master) and the year their CEP level was attained. The CEP card number, level and year attained shall be printed legibly and next to the signature of the coach. Note that any score sheets without this information will not be useable for counting towards the 20/10 requirements.
- Utah was required to post a \$500.00 deposit and was granted a one year waiver for their coach. This coach is required to acquire the appropriate coaching requirements prior to next season.

B. Supervisor of Officials – Steve Stevens

- Steve stated that retaining young officials is always difficult. Every year we seem to have different issues. This year it appears that players and fans need to be educated as to what is and is not acceptable behavior. Zero Tolerance is going to be enforced. Associations were provided Red and Yellow cards last season and it appears that efforts to use these tools should be implemented. Everyone is encouraged to start implementing controls on fan behavior prior to the start of the State Tournaments. It was stressed that local associations need to educate their parents and work on developing effective measures to deal with these issues as they occur.

C. USA Hockey Associate Registrar/Risk Manager – Ed Imes

- Ed thanked everyone for their efforts in submitting their registrations. Four hundred teams have been registered to date. This computes to a total of 5,100 players, coaches and managers.
- Forty-one invitational tournament applications have been submitted. Looking at the dates that have been submitted it appears that there will definitely be some conflicts especially at the Tier II level.
- Ed stated there was some confusion as to exactly what level the Inland Empire PeeWee team was declaring. Kim Via (President, Inland Empire) stated that they were declaring “B”. Ed will meet with Kim after the meeting to show her why there was confusion in interpreting the paperwork.
- Ed reiterated the requirement to be carded to the correct level. It was stated that coaches can only appear on one roster in the same age division. Any coaching changes to the roster need to occur no later than 24 hours prior to the credential meetings.
- Ed distributed a list of player rosters received and those teams eligible for state competition.
- Tier II and Tier I credentials will be pre-screened again this year. This year there are a total of 38 teams to be credentialed. Packets are to be postmarked no later than January 20, 2005. A contact name is to be provided to assist in the credentialing process. Please send photocopies and not the original documents. Ed will credential the Tier II Midget U16 and Tier I teams. Donna will credential the Tier II Midget U18, PeeWee and Bantams. The Squirt Festival will have a credential meeting on Thursday night prior to the beginning of the tournament on Friday. The Squirt division will be required to adhere to the 5/5 rule.
- Discussion by some as to what is required in a credentials packet. It appears that a number of associations have had turnover that has resulted in employees and/or volunteers that are not familiar with credential requirements. Dru Hammond (PNAHA League Commissioner) stated that most of these teams play in the PNAHA League and team managers are required to have their credential packet with them at all times. Kristin Videto offered to develop a “How To Do Credentials” checklist.
- Transfers for non-citizens were discussed as well as that the Tier I and Tier II managers were required to be listed on the Team Rosters.

D. League Commissioner – Dru Hammond

- Dru stated that this year was a little messy, lots of Match penalties to deal with.
- Rescheduling of games this weekend are anticipated due to the current weather conditions in Washington and Oregon. Teams were reminded that their safety always comes first but if a decision is made to cancel a game due to weather conditions that the teams are required to reschedule the games. Often times this will require that exhibition games be cancelled in order to accommodate League play. Associations were reminded that League commitments take priority over exhibition/invitational tournaments. Failure to play League games can result in a fine of up to \$300.00 per game not played.
- Brief discussion on Utah participation in the PNAHA League. Dru indicated that it has definitely created more work and that there had been a few issues, but most of these issues had been anticipated and resolved without much effort. Feedback from the Utah representatives is that this has been a successful season for their teams and was a positive experience for their organization. Trisha Christensen (Utah Travel Representative) indicated that they had experienced some initial season difficulties due to coaching packets being sent directly to their coaches. She shared that they had difficulties retrieving these packets to distribute to their team managers. Dru responded that Utah had not provided her with team manager's addresses but that she had provided an extra copy of the material in each coaching packet with directions to forward to their team managers. She also provided Trisha, Wade Baskin, and Jeff Zornow a packet of all information that was distributed to their coaches. Trisha indicated that their future preference would be that the information be decimated to her, and she would distribute it to the appropriate parties. Donna Kaufman (PNAHA President) explained that PNAHA has a process that works well and over the years it has been our experience that failure to distribute information directly to the coaches and team managers has often times resulted in a "lack of information." PNAHA will continue to communicate with participating teams directly as well as provide sample packets to the hosting organizations administrative personnel.
- Dru stated that she had only received the USA Hockey 1-T Official Team Roster from Utah and Oregon teams as required by the League Rules. These forms were due to her January 1, 2005.
- League game status and standings were presented and everyone was reminded that you can access this information through the PNAHA Website or through www.dynamicstats.com.
- It was stated that due to the need to post the draw for the Squirt Festival, that teams playing the last weekend of games in March will need to fax the score sheets to her at (509) 735-0333 at the conclusion of the games for validation.
- A summary of the comments gathered to date regarding revisions to the existing League Rules was presented. Dru did state her disappointment in the number of responses received in light of the energy expressed on this subject during the September meeting.
 - The comments submitted indicate a desire that a requirement be implemented that all teams wishing to advance to Districts (Tier II) participate in the League.
 - That League play is utilized to establish the tiering position of teams at the state tournament, thereby eliminating the blind draw. Conversation focused on the success of the Squirt Division.
 - Based on League standings the top eight teams would advance to play-offs.
 - That a minimum of three games be played at each venue to reduce the travel requirements. Perhaps four games could be scheduled during a weekend. Utah schedule was cited as an example.
 - Suggestion that perhaps League commitment be scheduled in June/July time frame allowing for local schedulers to block out workable dates/times to allow for multiple ice scheduling. Examples cited were Seattle Jr/Sno-King, Portland/Mavericks, Kent/Puget Sound Tomahawks.
- Conversation regarding the requirement that all teams participate in the League to advance to Districts was discussed. Opinions varied on this requirement. Dru stated that she could only report on the responses she had received to date. If this is not the direction that associations wish to go then it is imperative that the individuals that had committed to this committee demonstrate active participation, so that their association's wishes are reflected in the changes. It was mentioned that California has a requirement that all teams must play each other during the season.
- Dru reported that further work on this revision will occur once the tournament season has concluded.

E. Women's Hockey

- No report.

F. Adult Hockey

- No report.

7. 1st Vice President – Dave Bittenbender

- Dave reported that recently it was brought to PNAHA's attention that a website had been created that was found to be totally distasteful with the sole intent of harassing one particular PNAHA Official. This website was vulgar in content, attacked the official, and posted personal information such as the official's home address and phone. Attacks were also directed at the official's family members (wife and children) as well. This issue was discussed with the owner of the website who indicated that he had posted this information for a client and was unaware of the content. Dave Bittenbender, Matt Ohlinger and Jack Chaney were the representatives at the meeting with the website owner and found that this individual had "engaged in conduct unsuitable to the sport of hockey." Based on this finding it is possible that an appeal could occur within 30 days. Notice requesting an appeal must be provided in writing within seven days of this finding.
- An issue regarding a player who participates on the Totems is currently being addressed. At issue is whether or not the player should be banned from hockey. Dave is working with PNAHA's Legal Advisor, Casey Jorgensen, in an effort to resolve this issue.
- Dave presented recent findings by the Disciplinary Board regarding Jim Mueller's action of removing his team from the ice during a tournament being sponsored in Spokane. A Disciplinary hearing was held on December 31, 2004 with Dave Bittenbender, Katie Kusske and Jim Mueller in attendance. As provided for within the *USA Hockey Guidebook By-Laws, 10 G, Appeals*, an appeals hearing will be held at this time. Notice to appeal was received by PNAHA within the 10 day period from receipt of the decision from the hearing body. Dave announced that he would absent himself from voting on this issue. Donna started the proceedings by providing an overview of the appeal process to the Board of Directors. It was clarified that only the evidence and theories explicitly presented during the disciplinary hearing on December 31, 2004 to the suspending authority for its consideration prior to the rendering of the decision by the suspending body shall be presented or considered in this appeal.

Vigorous discussion occurred regarding this event. It was a general consensus that the suspended coach (Mike Anderson) failed to relinquish control of the team. Jim stated that he took full responsibility for removing the team from the ice. However, a credible witness stated that the spouse of the suspended coach per direction of the suspended coach, instructed Mr. Mueller to remove the team. It was clear during the discussion that Mr. Mueller had received ample warning of the consequences associated with removing a team from the ice through the officials assigned to the game. Steve Stevens indicated that this was a courtesy provided to the temporary coach and not a requirement of the officials to warn him of the consequences of his actions. It was further discussed that there was a shared responsibility here. The Spokane Tournament Director allowed for a substitute coach to man the bench that did not have the proper credentials. Mr. Mueller holds Level 2 certification. The coach stated he was qualified and was an eager participant. It was felt that had the suspended coach not interfered that Mr. Mueller would not have removed the team.

More discussion. Kristin Videto (PST) directed a question to Donna Kaufman (PNAHA President) as to what our options are. Donna responded "that we can affirm, reverse or modify (including increase or decrease) the original disciplinary action as presented." When asked what suspension this infraction carries, Donna responded that "any team that leaves the ice during a game may be suspended for a period of one year and shall be suspended for a minimum of thirty days." She further stated "that historically the penalty for this has been to apply the one year suspension as described in the PNAHA Annual Guidebook." Steve Cole (SNO) motioned to [*uphold the six month suspension, require that Mr. Mueller read the PNAHA Guidebook, and accept the original suspension as noted. Additionally, a letter stating the disposition of this appeal is to be sent to the coach and team parents*], motion seconded by Kim Via (INL). Motion passed. Abstention – 1.

- Following the appeal discussion regarding the behavior and actions taken by the suspended coach. It was the consensus that there was strong evidence that the suspended coach played a role in the team being pulled from the ice despite Mr. Mueller's statement that he takes full responsibility for the action. More discussion on whether further sanctions should be leveled. John Petruzzelli (Kent) motioned that, [*Rule 410 be invoked to investigate the role of the suspended coach in the final decision*

to pull this team in the game that he was suspended], seconded by Chris Raub (EVE). Motion passed. Abstention – 2.

8. 2nd Vice President – Steve Stevens

- Nothing to report. He has already covered his issues in his earlier reports.

9. President's Report – Donna Kaufman

- Donna presented an application for new membership from the Bremerton Ice Arena that was initially applied for at the June meeting.
- PNAHA has not received any new Member Team or Association applications. PNAHA requires that these applications be submitted by January 1 preceding the season the member wants to begin play.
- Donna discussed her upcoming trip to Miami for the USA Hockey Mid-Annual meeting. She indicated that this is a rule change year and inquired if there were any rule changes that PNAHA would like to have introduced. It was unanimous that those in attendance would like to see the “off sides rule” changed. The Board requested that she take back a recommendation to reinstate the tag-up rule. It is felt that the off-sides rule is not working, that re-grouping is easier for the players to understand.

10. Tournament Updates

- Donna stated that a venue to host a play-off for the Tier I Midget U16's was necessary due to only one slot being available at District. PNAHA has two teams this year, the 89 Evergreens and Seattle Junior.
- Sno-King is hosting the Tier I Districts for the Pee Wee and Bantam Divisions. Sno-King and Seattle Junior will be participating in this event at the Pee Wee level. Spokane, Seattle Junior and Sno-King will be participating at the Bantam level.
- It was explained that host hotels for State Tournaments are the same hotels utilized during League play. However, additional hotels may be added to the list to accommodate teams as needed.
- This year PNAHA will host the largest Tier II Tournament in its history with 34 teams participating. Two teams will advance to District at the PeeWee level. Participating teams are Kent, Mavericks, Tri-Cities, Spokane, 92 Evergreens, Sno-King, Seattle Junior, Puget Sound Tomahawks and Whatcom County. Two teams will advance to Districts at the Bantam level. Participating teams are Mavericks (2 teams), Tri-Cities, Spokane, 90 Evergreens, Sno-King, Seattle Junior, Puget Sound Tomahawks, Wenatchee and Whatcom County. Three teams will advance to District at the Midget U16 level. Participating teams are Mavericks, Tri-Cities, Spokane and Puget Sound Tomahawks. Three teams will also advance to District at the Midget U18 level. Participating teams are Kent, Mavericks, Tri-Cities, Spokane, Sno-King (2), Seattle Junior (2), Puget Sound Tomahawks, Wenatchee and Whatcom County.
- A blind draw will determine couplings and the schedule will be distributed approximately fourteen days from the scheduled event. Due to the size of this tournament the Tri-Cities is recommending that teams block rooms for the whole event to ensure they have sufficient hotel night stays locked in.
- The Squirt Festival will be held March 10-13, 2005 and is being hosted by Seattle Juniors. Matt Ohlinger is the Tournament Chairperson and can be reached by email at matto@sjha.com or by phone at 206-409-5064 or 425-776-8338.
- Spokane is hosting the State B Tournament. Cory Condron will be the Tournament Chairperson. Cory can be reached by email at cpcondron@condronhomes.com or by phone at (509) 370-5885. Teams participating will represent the following: PeeWee Division – Kent, Tri-Cities, Inland Empire, Spokane, Sno-King, and Wenatchee; Bantam Division – Inland and Spokane; Midget Division – Kent, Tri-Cities, Tri-Cities 2, Spokane and Puget Sound Tomahawks.
- A schedule will be posted for the PNAHA “B” Tournament approximately fourteen days out from the scheduled event.
- All tournaments are \$750.00. Tournament registrations are to be sent directly to the hosting organization. Do not send your checks to PNAHA.
- Teams that have automatic buys to District are required to send their checks to PNAHA now. PNAHA has paid District entries for all teams (Tier I and Tier II). Tier II teams should be prepared to write a check for District Tournament fees at the conclusion of the championship games in the Tri-Cities.
- Kim Via (INL) requested that a waiver be allowed to add a backup goalie to their roster. It was explained to Kim that this can be done, however she needs to place the request in writing to Ed Imes. It is further understood that this player will not be allowed to play unless the regular goalie is injured and deemed by a physician as unable to participate.

11. Association Reports

- None.

12. Old Business

- None.

13. New Business

- Donna stated that elections for President and second Vice President will be held at the June meeting. The second Vice President position is the position held by Steve Stevens. Candidates interested in this position would represent the East side of the State of Washington.
- Dru indicated that she has been working with the bank to arrange for on-line banking to collect fees for special events such as the State Development Camp, Pacific District Selects and other special interest PNAHA activities that require quick funding collection. The service charges need to be worked out but would eliminate the need to mail checks across the state for these activities and would also eliminate the problems associated with collecting insufficient funds. A shopping cart would be utilized to select the activity players wish to participate in.
- The next Pacific District Meeting will be held in Reno, February 11 and 12th.

14. Spring/Summer Meeting

- The Spring/Summer meeting will be held on June 18, 2005 in Wenatchee at the Red Lion. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

15. Adjournment

- Mike Lesky (Evergreens Representative) motioned [*to adjourn*], seconded by Jack Chaney (SJR). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.