

PNAHA ANNUAL FALL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2014

COAST WENATCHEE CENTER HOTEL & WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER

201 North Wenatchee Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801

Committee Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. Gordon Brown called the PNAHA Meeting to order at 10:41 a.m.

1. SIGN-IN

- ♦ Sign-in sheets distributed and are an official record with these minutes. Voting delegate sign-in sheet completed with the following delegates present: PNAHA President Gordon Brown; 1st PNAHA Vice President Adam Speer; 2nd PNAHA Vice President Rob Azevedo; Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Didzerekis.
- ♦ Member Organizations: KVHA Lew Sellers; KCAH Jay Miller; SJHA Kris Wilson; SKAHA Doug Kirton; SAYHA Brad Moon; TAHA Jared Bucci; TCAHA Tyler Nostrant; VYHA Bob Knoerl; WAHA Tami Gurnard; WWFHA Cindy Dayley; WCAHA Ted Ritter; YAHA Paul Kelley.
- ◆ Member Organizations not represented EYH Jerry Weir; IEAHA Dave Nieuwenhuis; MLYHA Lew Wagner.
- ♦ Member Team not represented Winthrop Nigel Mott

2. INTRODUCTIONS

• Personal introductions made by the PNAHA Board of Directors and special guest Donna Kaufman, Pacific District Director and Ed Imes, Pacific District Registrar.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

• Reading of the June 14, 2014, PNAHA Annual Summer meeting minutes. A Motion *[to approve minutes]* by Lew Sellers (KVHA), seconded by Bob Knoerl (VAH). *Motion passed*, all in favor.

4. TREASURER REPORT – DEBBIE DIDZEREKIS

- Debbie Didzerekis (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) presented copies and reviewed the June August 2014 Treasurer's Report. Ending balance as of August 31, 2014 is \$97,502.72. A Motion *[to approve Treasurer's Report]* by Lew Sellers (KVHA), seconded by Ted Ritter (WCAHA). *Motion passed*, all in favor.
- ♦ PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2014-2015
 - Debbie Didzerekis (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer) presented copies of the proposed 2014-2015 budget. A Motion *[to approve the proposed budget]* by Tyler Nostrant (TCAHA), seconded by Lew Sellers (KVHA). Discussion regarding addition of Development Camp income and expenses to show in the budget was discussed and agreed that it should be reflected in the budget, we will use the numbers from the previous season for this year's budget. Line item for PNAHA Member Development of \$1000.00 was added to cover expenses for PNAHA director's apparel as a thank you for the service they provide, when PNAHA directors attend USA Hockey events they will have clothing to identify the district they represent. Explanation of what is charged out to the Unseen/Miscellaneous Expenses was given. That category covers such items as background screenings for PNAHA officials and any other uncategorized items not on the budget list. *Motion passed*, all in favor.

5. SPECIAL GUEST

- ♦ DONNA KAUFMAN, USA HOCKEY DISTRICT DIRECTOR
 - ◆ Congratulations to Charlie Fuertsch on his election win as the new Vice President, Legal Counsel Chairperson of USA Hockey. Pacific District is looking for a treasurer to replace Charlie. The treasurer duties include dispersing funds of Pacific District, attends three (3) meetings per year, help coordinate district camps and tournaments to name of few of the duties.
 - ♦ Girls District/Nationals Tournament, March 4-8, 2015 in San Jose, CA, tournament fee is \$1,300.00 per team.
 - Level 5 clinic in Las Vegas, NV was a big success, everyone should be very proud. The Pacific District is very thankful for everyone's support of this event.
- ◆ DRU HAMMOND, USA HOCKEY DISTRICT DIRECTOR was unable to attend the meeting.
- ♦ ED IMES, USA HOCKEY PACIFIC DISTRICT REGISTRAR
 - Reminder that with the new system, once a birth certificate has been seen and verified by Ed, it will no longer need to be turned in again for that player. The preferred method of sending birth certificates to Ed is with an alphabetical list of all players on the team and their birth certificates behind that list in alphabetical order. Send them to Ed either by postal mail or scanned and sent via email.
 - With the new online system each team will get electronic rosters with a team code which can be given to someone to look up online in the electronic system. Essentially no need to print rosters again.

6. OFFICER'S REPORTS

- ♦ COACHING DIRECTOR ROB KAUFMAN
 - ♦ LEVEL 5/LEVEL 4 SEMINIAR
 - The level 5 has not been back on this side of the country in some time, so the district should very proud result. There were NHL coaches and trainers who after their talks were surrounded by the coaches with questions and discussions. They were very gracious and did talk to as many coaches as possible. It was a really great learning experience for everyone. There were about 12-15 PNAHA coaches in attendance at the Level 5. The Level 4 in Seattle was also very well attended and was a great success also. USA Hockey was very impressed with the seminars which are a lot of work to put on and the pacific district did a great job with both of them. Approximately 480 coaches attended the Level 5 seminar in Las Vegas. The level 5 attendees have until end of February to turn in their final assignments.
 - ♦ AGE APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

◆ USA Hockey President, Ron DeGregorio discussed the perception of ADM and how they are working to educate everyone about age appropriate drills and practices. We may change the name of ADM but it is really just age appropriate drills and practices. As we go along it will become common practice and accepted. There are pockets of resistance in the country but as we go along it will become the normal. There was discussion about if we are doing the right think at Squirts with having the haves and have not's. Does that really promote development or does it cause burn out, when such young ages are worries about making Tier I teams. Also discussion about reducing participation costs and increasing retention. There is likely to be snippets on the USA Hockey website but they are not likely to publish the full content for everyone to view. The participants will likely get the full videos.

♦ PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

♦ Squirt development are we doing the best for them. Are we separating too early, is it the best thing? Do we need to look and redo this process? Is there a recommendation as to what we should be doing and why. USA Hockey will continue to discuss it going forward. What is Doug Kirton hearing in his circles? We will move to Doug's report next.

♦ STATE SELECT CAMP (JAN 31 – FEB 1, 2015)

- ◆ Currently this is scheduled for Superbowl weekend, if Seattle is in the bowl again, Rob will not be at select camp and there are others who would not be there either. That weekend was chosen because of scheduling at Town Toyota Center that was the only weekend that was available per Tami G. That weekend could be a serious issue for participation. The facility will be broadcasting the Superbowl on the TV Monitors all around the rink. Rob recommends that we go back to the traditional weekend of the weekend before.
- ♦ Adam Speer (PNAHA 1st VP), Motion: [Ask members to look at alternative sites and submit and do a vote by email] 2nd by Lew Second, Discussion issue with getting leagues up and running. Meetings space needed also for that weekend. Need to know immediate 24th/25th of January. Adam accepts friendly amendment that proposals need to be in within 75 hours to consider a movement, Lew agrees to friendly amendment. Adam, Rob and Rob could cover 3 rinks. *Motion passed*, all in favor.
- Rob needs association select camp contact, evaluator and team leader.
- Team leader needs to be a screened USA hockey member, prefer coach not necessary run bench/supervisor locker room, make sure no line jumping, etc. You will do what evaluators want, you are a rah-rah motivator for the players.
- Evaluator should be a Coaching director that has coached at upper level or done scouting.
- ◆ Jared Bucci stated that it can't just be a parent/or a person that shows up; we struggle with what we are actually looking at and how it is looked at at the next level. We have a tendency to send players that shouldn't go. Had a great weekend then goes and it's a disaster. We need to make sure we are selecting the best qualified players to send on to the next camp.
- ♦ Do we move the 14's from the select camp and have a development camp for them so we can focus on the traditional selection camp for the older group? Discussion is do we reduce the number of players we send if the talent isn't there? Would that cause us to lose our allocation of how many players we could send on to the next level?

♦ COACHING CLINICS

- Only scheduled clinic is Bellevue, September 27th at the Marriott (Level 1 & Level 2). Rob is looking for more interest in the training jobs. It takes a few years to become a trainer as well as a time commitment from the individual to attend clinics and help with coaching clinics. There is a new Level 1 presentation this year that is more interactive.
- Additional clinics are scheduled in Oregon for October 1 in Eugene then October 11 in Beaverton. Rob is looking at schedule in Bellingham and Spokane currently. Coaches need to be aware they may have to travel for your training.

♦ GIRLS/WOMEN – CINDY DAYLEY

- ♦ Women's camp is working with Everett for camp ice times 24th & 25th of January. One player, Lokelani Antonia, made alternate for national camp and attended.
- Girl's numbers coming up quickly in Washington, an importance for continued success is that the state needs to work to promote the girls, we need to work at growing girl's hockey and make it a priority.
- Parent education is needed, regarding where they can go, college road maps for the next level for female players. No Junior option for female. Working to billet girls from east side so they can have that experience and development. Will be approaching PNAHA with a business plan to grow and promote female hockey.
- Two former PNAHA females Melissa Channell named to team Canada and Lexi Bender named team USA.
- Congratulations to Zoe Harris for her induction into the ACHA Hall of Fame. She received the honor for her work on starting women's division in non-varsity hockey
- ♦ SUPERVISOR OF OFFICIALS BEN STAEHR/TONY MILLES
 - ♦ Discussed changes to official seminars regarding attaining different levels. Safesport/Screening for referees are only required for those referees over the age of 18.
- ♦ REGISTRAR/RISK MANAGER ED IMES
 - Ed has guide books and rule books, please stop and see him after the meeting.
- ♦ LEAGUE COMMISSIONER TAMI GURNARD

- ◆ ICE TEMPLATES: New ice schedule template will be sent out and are to be used for league submissions. Associations need to give Tami 7 home weekend slots, the more flexible the association is the quicker she will get the schedule put together. There are no allowed black out weekends in league, Tami will try to accommodate as she can but no guarantee that you will get any requested black outs. ** She needs templates back by the 20th of September.
- ♦ HOST HOTELS: Host hotels are due by the 23rd of September. Please set them up on your association website then send the link to Tami and she will post on the PNAHA website.
- ◆ TEAM TIERING: Bantams will be tiering weekend of September 26-28th East vs West, the following weekend will be in Tri Cities East vs East, West vs West on the West side. League start depends on ice schedules being turned in to Tami.
- **♦** TEAM DECLARATIONS
 - ♦ TIER II
 - Peewee League (West Sound, Seattle Junior, Sno-King x2, Spokane, Tacoma, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Wenatchee)
 - ♦ Peewee Non-League (Sno-King)
 - ♦ Bantam League (Everett, Seattle Junior, Sno-King, Spokane, Tacoma, Tri-Cities, Wenatchee)
 - ♦ Bantam Non-League (Seattle Junior, Sno-King, Spokane)
 - ♦ Midget U16 Non-League (Everett)
 - ♦ Midget U18 League (West Sound, Sno-King, Tacoma, Tri-Cities, Wenatchee)
 - ♦ Midget U18 Non-League (Spokane)
 - ♦ B & SQUIRTS
 - ♦ Squirt League (Everett, Seattle Junior x 2, Sno-King x 3, Spokane, Tacoma, Tri-Cities)
 - ♦ Peewee Non-League (Kent, Seattle Junior, Sno-King, Tri-Cities)
 - ♦ Bantam Non-League (Kent, West Sound, Sno-King)
 - ♦ Midget U18 Non-League (Kent, Seattle Junior, Sno-King)
 - ♦ TIER I
 - ♦ Bantam Non-League (Sno-King)
 - ♦ Midget U16 Non-League (Everett, Kent, Sno-King, Whatcom)
 - ♦ Midget U18 Non-League (Seattle Junior)
- ◆ PEEWEE FESTIVAL
 - ◆ Gord Brown's (PNAHA President) recommendation for PeeWee Festival is that you must participate in League to participate in the Festival. The State Festival is a yearend league event and will incorporate some fun events. Tyler Nostrant (TCAHA) [Motion that only PeeWee league teams are allowed to participate in State Festival], 2nd by Rob Azevado (PNAHA 2nd VP). Motion passed, all in favor.
 - Competition committee will meet in January and discuss how to break up the peewee group for the festival.
- ♦ SAFESPORT DOUG ROSS
 - Every month a report is turned into USA hockey and there has been a lot of months with no activity. If you have an incident please report it.
 - ♦ All coaches need to be Safesport certified.
 - For background checks we have a new system through SportNgin, we are still seeing some coming in from Sterling and Acxiom so make sure your association is using the right system.
 - ◆ Ted Ritter (Whatcom) shared that they are now requiring 1 parent from each family to be safesport certified. They are manually tracking this at this time to make sure families are complying. It would be great if there was an easier system to keep track of safesport, background checks and CEP levels.
- ♦ ADM DIRECTOR WEST SIDE—DOUG KIRTON
 - ♦ ADM is 8 to 18 and we need to move toward that. At the Colorado 14U camp, they had 36 kids 4 goalies on the ice with a top level coach who was previously a big skeptic regarding ADM but he was amazed once he saw it in action. There was an article in the new USA Hockey magazine has article titled the **Evolution of the ADM**, everyone should read that article.
 - ♦ Herman Cho East Side ADM director. Finally approved.
 - ♦ Ty Hennes is the USA Hockey ADM Manager, reach out to him he will come and work with your association. He will be working in Sno-King in October. Contact Doug Kirton regarding attending the sessions, space is limited. Ty is looking at coming back in December to Seattle for a more comprehensive training for everyone.
 - ♦ Kingsgate Arena is now named Sno-King Ice Arena Kirkland or Kirkland for short.
- ◆ ADM DIRECTOR EAST SIDE HERMAN CHO was unable to attend the meeting and accepted the position.
- ◆ 1ST VICE PRESIDENT ADAM SPEER
 - One discipline issue with a player who punched a referee, discipline committee suspended the player for 1 (one) year. The player had 1 (one) year of youth playing left. He cannot participate in any USA Hockey functions until the suspension is served.
- $lack 2^{ND}$ VICE-PRESIDENT ROB AZEVEDO no issues to report.
- ♦ PRESIDENT GORDON BROWN
 - ♦ NEW PNAHA WEBSITE
 - New www.PNAHA.com website It is up and going. I sent an email earlier describing the benefits of the background checks and close to a hundred folks have successfully cleared it. Doug Ross is ecstatic about the new system and the huge reduction in effort for him (and his successors)
 - ♦ NEW EMAIL/COLLABORATION SYSTEM

- I have signed up PNAHA for the Microsoft's non-profit Office 365 program which is free for qualified non-profits.
 - The first impact is around email addresses. Please use President@PNAHA.com for future emails for myself.
- We have also started using it for archiving of PNAHA historical documents (USA Hockey audits, block grant requests, financial reports, etc etc) to make it easier for our successors to get up to speed.
- Collaboration features to be exploited soon.

♦ NEW PNAHA LOGOS

- The new website graphic artists wished to utilize the PNAHA logo in their design.
- The older logo is a bit dated and it doesn't give a good representation of Washington so I asked Sno-King's graphic artist to put together a few prototypes (at Sno-King's expense) and the PNAHA execs agreed that the one on the website was the best of the batch. Here's the previous version along with the best of the prototypes.











- ♦ If people are not ecstatic with the chosen logo (bottom left) we could setup a committee to explore other concepts and allocate funds for it. If people are happy with it I'd suggest we move to make it the official PNAHA logo.
- ♦ Rob Azevado (PNAHA 2nd VP) [Motion to accept the logo in the bottom left corner, which is currently on the website as the new logo]. Second by Tyler Nostrant (TCAHA). Motion passed, (SJHA abstained).
- ♦ 2 AND 2 CHALLENGE REPORT
 - ♦ It was a very good year for growth at the younger ages in Washington.

 Kudo's to Spokane to meeting the growing and retention goals and to Everett for the largest increase in 8u players. http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0056/9463/PacificNorthwest2013-14Report.pdf
 - ♦ The 2 and 2 Challenge consists of great tools/methods to grow your program and if the association does a few of them they receive new player equipment for signing up and using their techniques. I know that Whatcom put an effort into doing so this past winter/spring and it's paying off for them with big 8u numbers for this fall.
 - As of early this week these associations from PNAHA have signed up for the program.

 Everett, Sno-King, Tacoma, Vancouver, Whatcom
- ◆ PACIFIC DISTRICT MEETINGS (OCTOBER 24TH/25TH SEATTLE)
- ♦ FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUESTS
 - ◆ I have received a request for financial support from a local official to attend a high level official's camp. I am told that these type of requests come in occasionally for state development camps and district camps. I am supportive of PNAHA helping these people but would like the board to be aware of the requests and have a process / budget for them. I would suggest that a) a committee is created and they are given a budget and tasked with reviewing applications and allocating the funds or b) a certain amount is allocated to the President to distribute as deemed appropriate per year. All monies would be distributed by the SecTreas and documented in some way to allow for oversight but not in a manner that would detail the people asking for help.
 - Note: A group discussion by the members in attendance regarding Financial Support Requests was had, the group felt that players/families could talk to their local associations if they need financial help; most associations have funds set aside for this. They don't want PNAHA to be in the business of funding players' registrations/fees.
- ♦ 8U PLAYER EXCEPTIONS
 - As per PNAHA's 8u player exception agreement, no more than 3 8u players per association are allowed to play "up" in 10u. Please ensure that your association is compliant and be ready to report on the number of 8u players playing up this weekend.
- ♦ BACKGROUND CHECKS NEW SYSTEM
 - Failure to ensure that the adult authority figures in our programs have current background checks potentially subjects our youth to predators and legally and financially exposes our associations and administrators.
 - Please ensure that your people are current in their background checks.
- ◆ GAME REPORTING
 - ♦ As per a previous email, the Game Reporting system has some enhancements that allows for each association to be notified when one of their players receives a penalty with progressive suspension consequences. Each of the associations PNAHA rep has been set as the recipient for their association.
- ♦ PLAYER RELEASES

Please ensure that all the new players to your association have releases from their previous association. There are consequences for rostering players without having their release. If your registrar claims all your players for your teams I can produce a report for you that shows all the players that were claimed by another association last year according to USA Hockey.

7. TOURNAMENTS

- ◆ Tyler Nostrant (TCAHA) Motion *[to have Squirt Festival and PeeWee Festival be on the same weekend and Tier II would only be Bantam/Midget]*, 2nd by Lew Sellers. *Motion passed*, all in favor.
 - ◆ TIER I FEB 6-8, 2015, hosted by Kent
 - ♦ Jay Miller (KAHA) Motion *[to select Kent as the host of the Tier I tournament]*, 2nd by Debbie Didzerekis (PNAHA Secretary/Treasurer). Discussion on other host options. Jared Bucci (TAHA) called the question. *Motion passed*, all in favor.
 - ◆ TIER II BANTAM/MIDGETS FEB 26-MAR 1, 2015, hosted by Spokane
 - ♦ Jared Bucci (TAHA) Motion [to select Spokane as the host of the Tier II Bantam/Midget tournament], 2nd by Lew Sellers (KVHA). Motion passed, all in favor.
 - ♦ PEEWEE & SQUIRT FESTIVAL MARCH 13-15, 2015, hosted by Tri-Cities
 - ◆ Tami Gurnard (WAHA) Motion *[to select Tri-Cities as the host of the Squirt/PeeWee Festival]*, 2nd by Lew Sellers (KVHA). *Motion passed*, all in favor.
 - "B" STATE TOURNAMENT Associations need to let Gord know if you are interested in hosting and have available ice, it would be desired that the weekend for this tournament between Tier II and Squirt/PeeWee Festival. Bremerton expressed interest and will verify their ice availability.
- ◆ DISTRICT TOURNAMENT DATES
 - ◆ TIER I YOUTH (14U, 16U AND 18U) MARCH 5-8, 2015, HOST SHARKS ICE, SAN JOSE, CA
 - ♦ TIER I & II GIRLS' MARCH 5-8, 2015, HOST SHARKS ICE, SAN JOSE, CA
 - ♦ WOMEN'S C FEBRUARY 20-22, 2015 HOST TBD
- ♦ NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DATES
 - ♦ GIRLS' TIER I MARCH 26-30, 2015 GREEN BAY, WI
 - ♦ GIRLS' TIER II MARCH 26-30, 2015 LANSING, MI
 - ◆ YOUTH TIER I (14U, 16U, 18U) MARCH 26-30, 2015 AMHERST, N.Y.
 - ◆ YOUTH TIER II 14U MARCH 26-30, 2015 SALT LAKE CITY, UT
 - ♦ YOUTH TIER II 16U MARCH 26-30, 2015 PLANO, TX
 - ◆ YOUTH TIER II 18U MARCH 26-30, 2015 TROY, MI
 - ♦ WOMENS' RECREATIONAL MARCH 26-29, 2015 GREEN BAY, WI
 - ♦ HIGH SCHOOL MARCH 19-23, 2015 CHESTERFIELD, MO
- 8. OLD BUSINESS
- 9. NEW BUSINESS
 - ♦ KENT PROPOSAL
 - ◆ OPEN PARTICIPATION RULE
 - ◆ Lew Sellers (KVHA) Motion *[to adopt the Open Participation Rule]*, 2nd by Adam Speer. Discussion related to the paragraph referencing facility owned by PNAHA associations, Tacoma, Bremerton and Sno-King are the only Association owned facilities. Friendly amendment from Adam Speer *[to strike paragraph referencing Facility owned]*, agreed by Lew Sellers. Additional discussions regarding intent of the rule. Rob Azevado (PNAHA 2nd VP) called for the vote. *(2 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstained) Motion Failed.*
 - ◆ PLAYER RELEASE RULE
 - ◆ Lew Sellers (KVHA) Motion *[to adopt the Player Release Rule]*, 2nd by Adam Speer (PNAHA 1st VP). Friendly amendment from Lew Sellers *[to add family provides a written request for]*, agreed by Adam Speer (PNAHA 1st VP). Friendly amendment from Adam Speer *[to add may result in a fine, strike will result in a fine]*, agreed by Lew Sellers. Motion re-read for clarification see attachment to minutes for final wording of motion. Tyler Nostrant (TCAHA) called for the question. *(7 in favor, 4 opposed) Motion Passed.*
 - ♦ VANCOUVER REQUEST
 - ♦ Bob Knoerl (VYHA) requests that the Bantam team from VYHA be given an exhibition schedule for this season, they understand they will not be able to participate in the State Tournament. VYHA will be playing Everett on the September 20th. They will turn in those score sheets and the competition committee will evaluate when they meet after the first weekend of tiering for Bantams.
- 10. WINTER MEETING
 - ♦ THE PNAHA WINTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SATURDAY**, **JANUARY** 10TH, **2014**, AT THE COAST WENATCHEE CENTER HOTEL & WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER IN WENATCHEE, LOCATED AT 201 N. WENATCHEE AVENUE. ROOM RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING (509) 662-4411. ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO MAKE THEIR ROOM RESERVATIONS PRIOR TO LEAVING THE FACILITY, AS AVAILABILITY IS ALWAYS LIMITED AT THE HOTEL DUE TO HIGH OCCUPANCY DURING THE HOCKEY SEASON.
- 11. ADJOURNMENT
 - ♦ Gordon Brown (PNAHA President) [motioned to adjourn], seconded by Tami Gurnard (WAHA). *Motion passed*, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m

** NEW BUSINESS SUBMITTED BY KENT VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION **

Rule Proposals for the September 13, 2014 PNAHA Meeting Submitted by Kent Valley Hockey Association

Open Participation Rule

Member associations shall make no rule, in practice or in policy, which discriminates against any player in registering to play hockey in the absence of:

- 1) documented failure by player and/or family to abide by financial obligations;
- 2) documented pattern of failure by players and/or families to abide by the published USA Hockey Code of Conduct, communicated to such at times of violation; or
- 3) suspensions or repeated Major or Match penalties, communication for which is due within 10 business days of the end of the player's prior season.

All USA Hockey registered players are eligible to enroll at any PNAHA association as long as that association has available positions on age appropriate USA Hockey rosters up to the USA Hockey limit of 20 players. Neither players nor their families may be discouraged from registering at an association of their choosing by use of threat, intimidation, or retribution.

Facilities owned by PNAHA member associations may not discriminate against any USA Hockey registered player in the use of open ice times, stick-and-puck type ice times, nor public skating, by players or instructors, nor charge fees above standard association member admission prices. PNAHA supports the right of all USA Hockey registered players to enjoy the game at any PNAHA rink.

Complaints for failure to follow these rules may be appealed to the PNAHA Board of Directors. Violation of this rule shall result in a fine to the offending association of \$500 up to the amount of the highest player registration fee at that association in the given year, as well as any supplemental discipline the PNAHA Board sees fit, payable to PNAHA to be used for activities specifically directed at growing the game.

Player Release Rule

When a player or his or her family provides a written request for a release, from a member association or member team, the association must grant a the written release must be granted, by email or postmark within three (3) business days from the time of request, once all financial obligations have been met by the player is in good standing. In order to prevent obstruction, interference, or difficulty for the player and family, the releasing association may not harass, argue, or otherwise attempt to dissuade the player and family from gaining their release. All players have the right to be able to make decisions about where they want to play without fear of reprisal or hassle.

Complaints for failure to follow these rules may be appealed to the PNAHA Board of Directors. Violation of this rule shall may result in a fine to the offending association of \$500 up to the amount of the highest player registration fee at that association in the given year, as well as any supplemental discipline the PNAHA Board sees fit, payable to PNAHA to be used for activities specifically directed at growing the game.

** NEW BUSINESS SUBMITTED BY VANCOUVER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION **

From: Vancouver Youth Hockey Association

Re: Rule 14

Vancouver Youth Hockey Association is requesting to be considered for Tier II league play at the Bantam level for the 2014/15 season in regards to Rule 14. The reason for this letter is for other associations to be aware of our unique circumstances prior to the PNAHA general meeting on September 13th and explain our reasons for this request.

As you may already know, this is VYHA's third season as a PNAHA association. Our numbers continue to grow and we feel we are making positive contributions to youth hockey in the Vancouver metropolitan area. Currently, we have teams at the Bantam, Peewee, and Squirt level for the 2014/15 season.

Unfortunately, VYHA was not able to field Bantam level teams the last two seasons due to lack of numbers. Our Peewee teams competed as an independent the first season and at the B level last season. We had some moderate competitive success both seasons. That success along with some changes of an association across the river in Oregon has resulted in a influx of new players for 2014/15. This influx has put us over the number of new players allowed under Rule 14. VYHA believes there are three main reasons why we should be considered for Tier II league play for the 2014/15 season.

First, this is the first year VYHA has offered a Bantam level team. A core group of players moved up from the previous Peewee team but many new players have joined VYHA. As outlined under Rule 14 this is similar to a new member organization. VYHA understands that this prohibits state tournament play, but it is not clear in regards to Tier II league play. Myself, and the rest of the VYHA coaching staff feels that Tier I level play will be significantly above the Bantam team's playing ability.

Second, the team make-up this season is very similar to that of a minor team at the Bantam level. Out of our 18 player roster 15 players are in their first year (2001's) and one goaltender is actually a 2002 playing up. Our two second years are returning players from our defunct Bantam team last season. One played at the Tier II level for West Sound and one played on a house program at Portland. None of the players from the other association played rep hockey last season.

Lastly, I was employed by Mountain View Ice Arena and was actively working within the hockey operations when Tim O'Neal crafted his team and plan together. I specifically overheard conversations regarding his attempt to overcome current rules that were set in place at the time to protect other associations from "All-Star" team configuration. This set of circumstances gave birth to Rule 14. Our situation today is much different from that occurrence years past. We did none to little recruiting this off-season, but rather answered calls from player families interested in what PHAHA was about and could offer. Our message was to make sure people understood the focus of PNAHA is to progress players' careers through different avenues and help them achieve their goals on and off the ice. This is the same philosophy I believe in coaching. The association across the river is not offering a competitive league schedule where players have the opportunity to measure their talents from other players in the region. At this juncture our goal is to provide that opportunity to our players. This season for VYHA is not about competing at a state tournament, but rather providing a consistent schedule that will help us to continue growth in our program. The Tier II PNAHA league schedule facilitates that goal and is exactly what players and their families are wanting from a youth hockey program.

Thank you for taking a moment to read and consider this request from the VYHA Bantam team for Tier II league play in 2014/15. Our organization understands we may not be eligible for state tournament play. VYHA appreciates all that PNAHA does for youth hockey and knows that PNAHA is a significant reason for our growth. The Bantam team would love to compete at the Tier II league level this season and be an active member of PNAHA for years to come. Please feel free to email or call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Derek Garvin
VYHA Bantam Head Coach
derek.garvin@expectps.com
503-740-5979

