

**Michigan Senior Women's Hockey League**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 14, 2015**

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Attendees: Sarah Jacobsen (Freeze), Michelle Reeve (Hammerheads), Sarah Parker (Freeze), Tammy Callahan (Stingrays), Sally Callaghan (Black Ice), Renee LeBlanc (TOT<sup>2</sup>), Kerri Kelly (Bombshells), Melanie Bidwell (Rampage)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President S. Jacobsen

I. Approval of 6/9/15 minutes (M. Reeve motion; T. Callahan second)

II. Treasurer's report (M. Reeve)

A. Current Balance, \$9,347.48

B. Recent estimated expenses from MAHA conference: \$600 total for S. Jacobsen and M. Reeve's 3-night hotel stay, food, gas, and mileage reimbursement. K. Kelly motioned to approve respective reimbursement to M. Reeve. S. Callaghan seconded.

C. S. Jacobsen received State of MI non-profit license renewal, which is a \$20 fee due by 10/1/15. Given to M. Reeve to handle as part of Treasurer duties.

D. After board of director officers are assigned, M. Reeve will help facilitate the required paperwork changes for the league's Comerica account.

III. Old Business

A. Renay Koos appeal

1. Denied by a vote of 6-1 on 6/18/15

2. Majority of board members expressed that they would likely allow her to move down to D4, but a couple were adamant she should remain in D3.

B. Appointment of board officers for 2015-16:

President- Sarah Jacobsen; Vice President- Michelle Reeve; Secretary- Sally Callaghan; Assistant Secretary- Renee LeBlanc; Treasurer- Tammy Callahan  
Assistant Treasurer- Michelle Reeve; Ruicci Cup Coordinator-Kerri Kelly;  
Time keeper – Sarah Parker

C. Finalization of board meeting venue, date, locations for 2015-16 season

1. R. LeBlanc reported back that Southfield Civic Center/library is too expensive and does not fit our needs (space, days/times).

2. Consideration of returning to Eddie Edgar in Livonia (\$25/evening)

3. Consideration of staying at Mahany-Meining Senior Center in Royal Oak (\$10/hour; 9 p.m. close/ sometimes 8 p.m. in summer)

4. Other concerns: varying locations/days from month to month may confuse members, custody arrangements of board members, home ice day/time of board members, summer league conflicts with No Bull and Chelsea

5. Agreement was made to keep meetings on Tuesday evenings at Mahany-

Meininger until September 8 (scheduling meeting), which will likely be held at Thurston High School in Redford. Will consider changing to Wednesday (or other) evenings beginning in October.

D. MSWHL as 501(c)3 vs. 501(c)7 organization

S. Jacobsen and M. Reeve spoke with MAHA Attorney Steve Stapleton, who affirmed that our status as a 501(c)7 organization is sufficient. He believes that it is far less paperwork than if we were to change to a 501(c)3 and does not think it would be of any more benefit to do so. Both types have financial budget profit caps of \$50,000 and agreed to send S. Jacobsen a copy of Michigan's non-profit status easy reference guide booklet.

E. Consideration of D1 "Elite" division for 2015-16

1. With the exception of Little Caesar's, S. Jacobsen had conversations with current managers from previous league "elite/D1" teams (e.g. Honeybaked, Victory Honda, D-Rev, O'Leary Hawks, Belle Tire), as well as ICES, Cougars, Mission to gauge their interest in returning to the league for a shortened season (10-12 games as opposed to 20-24).
2. Mixed reviews were received. Some teams were not interested nor able to afford/obtain 1.5 hour home ice sheets, others expressed concern about not being able to "double roster" players if needed mid-way through season to prepare for States/Nationals. Some managers simply wanted only to play teams within the league, and others expressed doubts as to what benefits returning to the league would provide for them.

F. Reconsideration of allowing 18 year-olds in league

1. M. Reeve and S. Jacobsen spoke with MAHA Girls/Womens rep Jean Laxton, who intimated that 19U teams in Michigan may soon be gone, as most elite 19 year-olds who aren't already playing in college, have found rec leagues, or have hung up their skates. She reminded us that per USA Hockey rules, 18 year-olds are adults and thus allowed to play in USA Hockey adult-sanctioned leagues. However, they must turn 18 before playing in their first game.
2. Discussion occurred about limiting the number of 18 and 19 year-olds per team, and consensus was to allow no more than two of each age per team.

G. Handbook revisions for 2015-16

1. Cancellation policy – will clarify as necessary in updated handbook
2. Number of Divisions – may or may not expand to seven depending on the number of team applications received, also taking into consideration the competitiveness and parity of teams in each division.
3. Revisions to Age and Experience Guidelines
  - a. Discussion and consensus about adjusting the age and experience guidelines, which will be sent out separately by S. Jacobsen as soon as possible before managers send in their preliminary rosters.
  - b. In summary, new players ages 18-30 entering the league for the first time will be subject to the new guidelines, which have been adjusted at most to one or two years of experience. Players already in the league on existing teams will be "grandfathered" in to the previous age and experience guidelines. The revised guidelines will be posted on the website under "forms."

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Summer MAHA Meeting

1. M. Reeve attended the Officials Committee meeting
  - a. Push to teach the refs how women's games are different,
  - b. MAHA is offering a women's only ref clinic in Lansing to increase the number of female refs (only 1 Level 4 and 9 Level 3 female refs in MI)
  - c. Discussion about harassment of female refs by coaches, and consequences for doing so
2. S. Jacobsen attended the Rules Committee meeting
  - a. Approximately 20 rules were reviewed, discussed, and voted on, mostly pertaining to youth
  - b. The only rule applicable to girls/women was related to starting 14U and 16U teams, and was intended to protect existing associations from having their players "poached" by other associations, but this rule was denied.
3. M. Reeve and S. Jacobsen both attended the Womens/Girls Committee meeting
  - a. Highlights were increased registration of MI women, for which the MSWHL was recognized as contributing 700+ of those players, thus bringing in a greater share of USA Hockey money to Michigan.
  - b. Although Michigan ranked 2nd in overall 2014-15 USA Hockey registration (behind Minnesota), the Girls/Women ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in total but 7<sup>th</sup> in the even younger age groups.
  - c. Most of the meeting focused on Girls issues, including the high probability of eliminating the 19U division and the need to increase interest in the game for young girls, such as advertising/promoting the "Try Hockey for Free" events

##### B. Team Applications/rosters for 2015-16 season

1. Received: Bombshells, Cranks, Freeze, Mission, O'Leary Hawks (Seniors), Polar Bears, Renegades, Storm
2. Teams folding: Cyclones, Frozen Assets
3. Possible new/returning teams: Belle Tire, O'Leary Hawks (two teams), and a new D4 or D5 team

##### C. Sport NGIN Registration set up –M. Reeve will contact the Sport NGIN folks to begin facilitating the 2015-16 registration

#### V. Other

- A. Scorekeeper available for hire – Email received from Christopher Mallia, who claims to be a "professional scorekeeper" from Novi available on Monday and Wednesday nights. S. Jacobsen will send him info about contacting the rinks.
- B. Hat Trick BBQ utensils- Email received from Jack Hyman, owner of Hat Trick BBQ products, who turns broken hockey sticks into BBQ tools, expressing his interest in providing possible "trophy" or raffle items for Ruicci Cup. K. Kelly will contact him to get some samples of his work.
- C. CARHA Hockey World Cup 2016  
Information received for this tournament, to occur April 3-10, 2016 in Windsor, ON. Apparently, teams from at least 12 countries are expected to participate. Information will be posted on the website.

- D. Sled Dogs fundraiser – Carol Schwanger forwarded information about the recent passing of Sled Dog skater Mike Brown, indicating that Evaline from Fraser Hockeyland offered to donate three Sunday morning skates (July 12, 19, 26 8:25-10:25 a.m. @ \$20 per person to Nicole (his family member), to cover Mike's funeral expenses.
- E. C. Schwanger will be organizing/hosting the National Disabled Hockey Festival at Fraser Hockeyland April 7-10, 2016, including offering a new division for visually impaired players (those with 10% or less vision). Anybody interested in volunteering to help with this tournament can contact Carol at [greatjaws1225@yahoo.com](mailto:greatjaws1225@yahoo.com).
- F. K. Kelly shared that Arnell from All Star Photography already expressed interest in offering their services for Ruicci Cup 2016 and is hoping to get confirmation for it for their scheduling purposes. K. Kelly will contact Lori Yarnell at Eddie Edgar to get availability for Ruicci Cup dates for 2016, keeping in mind when States are being scheduled.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. (Motion by R. LeBlanc, seconded by M. Reeve.

Next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., August 18, 2015 at Mahany-Meiningner Senior Center, 3500 Marai, Royal Oak.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parker  
Board member/Time keeper