

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING  
MINUTES**

Thursday, June 4, 2015  
Saturday, June 6, 2015  
Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO

In attendance:

Kenney, Chris	District	Director/Chairman
Lewis, TC	District	Director
Brandstetter, Dean	District	Director
	District	Director
Pashkowski, Geoff	AZ	Director at Large
Day, Jill	District	Secretary/Treasurer
Lehto, Mike	District	Coach-in-Chief
Reinhard, Ken	District	Referee-in-Chief
Emerizy, Neil	District	Webmaster
Scoran, Kory	District & ID	ADM Coordinator
Shaw, Brendan	AZ	President
Rogers, Jim	AZ	Vice President
Jerome, Donnalee	AZ	Registrar
Gibson, Larry	AZ	CEP
Haley, Herb	AZ	Safe Sport
Dennee, Sarah	AZ	Secretary
Kanai, Randy	CO	President
Craven, Anda	CO	Registrar
Heinrich, John B	ID	President
Thompson, Steve	NM	President
Firman, Terrance	NM	Safe Sport
	District	Disabled Rep
Hoskins, Mike	OK	President
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
Hall, Reggie	TX	President
Servaes, Mark	TX	Vice President
Graves, Bettepat	TX	Registrar
Thompson, Darla	TX	Registrar
Smith, Kathleen	UT	President
Anderson, Cathy	UT	Registrar
Radke, Derrick	UT	Girls/Women
Radke, Wendy	UT	Safe Sport
Carlson, Craig L	UT	CEP
Woodhall, Wayne	UT	ADM
Woodhall, Shannon	UT	UHS President
Urban, Bruce	USA Hockey	Director at Large
Mariconda, Joan	USA Hockey	Director at Large
Briggle, Rae	USA Hockey	Member Services
DiGiacomo, Paulette	USA Hockey	Member Services
Hennes, TY	USA Hockey	ADM
DeGregorio, Ron	USA Hockey	President
Brewer, Dustan	USAWWSHA	President
Lundquist, Teresa	USAWWSHA	Vice President

Absent:

McKibbon, John	District	Director Retiring
		High School Section
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar

Chris Kenney called the meeting to order at 6:30 am. A quorum was present to conduct business. Introductions were made.

Rae Briggie reported that registration is outstanding in the Rocky Mountain District. Communication is great. Bruce Karinen has a great group of registrars in the district and they are doing a great job. The National office is always ready to help, just ask. We were the largest district in percentage last season. Ashley Bevan reported that adult hockey is doing great in the district also.

### Minutes

Minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting in Orlando were reviewed. Dean Brandstetter noted one correction. It wasn't the Policy & Procedure Manual that was approved, it was the Bylaws. Reggie Hall made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes with the noted change. Kathleen Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Director Elections

Geoff Pashkowski was voted as the new District Director for a three year term. The term will start at the end of Congress this week. Geoff has been attending these meetings for several years. He is very active in the Arizona affiliate and with Rocky Mountain District girls' team tournament.

### 2015 Rocky Mountain District and National Tournaments

Mark Serveas reported that the Boys Tier II U16 National Tournament in Texas was very smooth. There were no real issues, but it was a lot of work. Feedback received was good. It represented Texas and the District very well. TC Lewis said dealing with the parents was the biggest problem. He asked if police presence should be included in the budget of the tournament. It was suggested that the contract with the host rink should include security. Kathleen Smith said for the Boys Tier II U14 National Tournament in Salt Lake used volunteers for security and rented radios for communication. The presence of security stopped many problems before they could start. They team and official locker rooms were made inaccessible to parents during games. Coaches were appreciative of keeping parents away. A few comments were received from parents about the length of the tournament. For the High School National, many commented that they appreciated that independents were included this year. The Utah Lady Grizzlies thought the Tier II Girls Tournament was great. It was mentioned that it would be fun to have Girls Tier I and Tier II with the Boys Tier 1 tournament in same spot. The volunteer base would be larger also. Boys commented that they were surprised by the level of girls play because they usually don't get see them play. They liked the three week gap between districts and nationals.

There was a discussion of changing the district tournament to be a four team event and have state play offs to accommodate it. This will be discussed in more detail Saturday. Coaches were asked their thoughts about it at the Dallas tournament. They were in favor of it. Shorter tournament means games starting later in the morning. Exposure to scouts really isn't an incentive for "more" teams. TC Lewis is going to bring up the tie breaker rule to the youth committee about plus minus affecting running up the score to be in place for tie breaker.

Ron DeGregorio said thank you for our support over the years. He still believes hockey starts at the grass roots. We are grateful for him and all the programs that have been put in place during his tenure.

Dr. Alan Ashare talked about the "Heads Up, Don't Duck" program. He suggested that each affiliate check their state legislation regarding concussions to make sure their programs are in compliance. Remind players every time they are on the ice heads up, don't duck.

Ty Hennes reported that the District is moving in right direction with the American Development Model (ADM) program. The district has been very supportive.

### **National Hot Topics**

House/Rec coaching requirements for lower level coaching has been identified as pretty hefty. Sub-committees are looking in to this. It will take time for any changes to take effect. It is also important to get youth teams back under USA Hockey membership instead of AASU. November is the deadline for next legislative voting year.

Texas Affiliates Midget Major 18U numbers are declining so many are playing junior or college. It was suggested it be brought up in the Affiliate Presidents meeting.

### **Girls/Women Grant**

Randy Kanai made a **MOTION** to approve Bruce Karinen's request for up to \$3,200.00 in funds for Girls/Women committee, but to leave the budget at \$2,600.00. The motion was tabled until the budget discussion on Saturday.

Rocky Mountain District Hockey, Inc. is officially a 501(c)3 entity with its own tax id number. We now need a policy and procedure manual. It was suggested to ask the finance committee to see if they have a recommendation about filing the tax return. TC Lewis made a **MOTION** for the Treasurer, Jill Day, to open new bank account with online access. Dean Brandstetter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Day, Secretary/Treasurer  
Rocky Mountain District Hockey, Inc.

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MINUTES**

Saturday, June 6, 2015  
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In attendance:

Kenney, Chris	District	Director/Chairman
Lewis, TC	District	Director
Brandstetter, Dean	District	Director
	District	Director
Pashkowski, Geoff	AZ	Director at Large
Day, Jill	District	Secretary/Treasurer
Reinhard, Ken	District	Referee-in-Chief
Emerizy, Neil	District	Webmaster
Scoran, Kory	District & ID	ADM Coordinator
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Rogers, Jim	AZ	Vice President
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Gibson, Larry	AZ	CEP
Haley, Herb	AZ	Safe Sport
Dennee, Sarah	AZ	Secretary
Kanai, Randy	CO	President
Craven, Anda	CO	Registrar
Heinrich, John B	ID	President
Thompson, Steve	NM	President
	District	Disabled Rep
Hoskins, Mike	OK	President
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
Hall, Reggie	TX	President
Servaes, Mark	TX	Vice President
Graves, Bettepat	TX	Registrar
Thompson, Darla	TX	Registrar
		Women's Officiating
Halpern, Sue	TX	Supervisor
Smith, Kathleen	UT	President
Anderson, Cathy	UT	Registrar
Radke, Derrick	UT	Girls/Women
Radke, Wendy	UT	Safe Sport
Woodhall, Wayne	UT	ADM
Woodhall, Shannon	UT	High School President
Urban, Bruce	USA Hockey	Director at Large
Mariconda, Joan	USA Hockey	Director at Large
Hennes, TY	USA Hockey	ADM
Bloomer, Al	USA Hockey	Director Emeritis

Absent:

		High School Section
Grover, Kelly	District	Risk Manager
Karinen, Bruce	District	Registrar
Lehto, Mike	District	Coach-in-Chief

Chris Kenney called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. A quorum was present to conduct business.

## ADM Program

Ty Hennes congratulated the Rocky Mountain District for best growth numbers in ADM this season. He is taking a position back east with USA Hockey so he will be turning the RMD over to Joe Bonnet as the regional representative. Joe is looking forward to building more relationships within the district.

## Coaching Suspensions

Kathleen Smith asked the affiliates what their guidelines were for the length of coaching suspensions. Idaho said theirs is a season, Colorado said theirs is 6 months. Ken Reinhard said he wants to know about a coach that says he doesn't know removing his team from the ice is a match penalty. Randy Kanai wanted a standard or a goal for Tier play from USA Hockey and then write the affiliate policy. It was noted that the affiliates within the district are too diverse to have a USA hockey mandate. Reggie Hall is not in favor of USA Hockey mandates. Texas has reduced from 4 to 2 Tier I teams. The battle has been fought and won in Texas. There was a lot more of discussion. Chris Kenney will analyze each affiliate's criteria and send out a summary to the affiliates.

## Affiliate Updates

TX - Reggie Hall reported on having a quiet year with only 1 law suit filed. National and District tournaments were very successful. They issued \$35-40,000 in grants. Many of their associations are using the hard dividers which were purchased with the grants. They reduced the size of state playoffs and ended up with 2 champions.

CO - Randy Kanai says they are spending a lot of time on Tier hockey. They are going to try something new with a CO Annual Congress on August 1<sup>st</sup>. They are trying to get more involvement. They had house/rec state playoffs for first time in a long time. High School has really grown in the last couple of years. Midget hockey has dropped due to the increase in high school, but they are still under USA Hockey.

AZ - Brendan Shaw says registration numbers are maxed out. AZ youth hockey leagues had state playoffs. Officials are a work in progress. AZ State University has gone Division 1 and started a buzz. Coyotes are very helpful to the program.

NM - Steve Thompson says NM trying to get more kids in the program. Sled hockey is growing. One arena is having problems. Tier is still trying to conform. Player development camp is still weak but getting help. Still need more stability on their board. Hooked on Hockey is bringing new kids in the door at the first of the season.

ID - John Heinrich their house league uses cross ice for squirts and mites. They have a no-check league for midgets, Learn to skate is growing and retention is better under Kory Scoran and the ADM program. They are looking at putting on an Adult tournament. They are updating their policy and procedure manual. They have one Tier organization with 2 teams.

UT - Kathleen Smith reported severe difficulties getting bylaws and board in compliance. There will be an election June 24<sup>th</sup> based on new bylaws. Everyone is removed from the board and all new board members will be in place on July 14<sup>th</sup>. They are trying to revamp the disabled hockey program. Lady Grizzlies 19U went to the National Tournament. First girls team from Utah to a National tournament. The High School association sent two teams to Nationals. The Independent team was allowed to go and they were very happy about it. The Adult Rookie league doubled from the first year and they added women's' teams. The Adult 3 on 3 program is bringing back players and officials that have been out of the program for 10 years. Tier II Boys U14 Nationals were very successful and funds were distributed to state associations of the volunteers based on time volunteering.

## Referee-in-Chief

Ken Reinhard submitted a written report. The lowest registration is level 1. There are over 36% incomplete due to overwhelming requirements. Video modules reduced by 38%. There are now different criteria for each level of clinic. Open book test results only averaged 61%. They need to simplify the retaking of the test. Officials were very pleased with their treatment at National tournaments in Salt Lake and Dallas. They are still struggling to fill spots for officials for summer camps both male and female. Ken would like to know when applications for nationals are submitted so he can make officials aware of the possibilities.

Ken introduced Sue Halpern as the Women's Officiating Supervisor. She is a lawyer and offered services in writing contacts etc. The gender slurs presentation she created has been very well received. Rule 601e2 (game misconduct) deals with race and ethnicity, but there is a great need for gender to be included in the rule. She would like the wording changed to say "discriminatory slurs including but not limited to . . ." She asked the Affiliates to adopt a resolution in the district that gender slurs will be handled under 601e2 and support the rule change. Randy Kanai made a **MOTION** for Sue to draft the wording for each of the affiliates to adopt. Kathleen Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Disabled Section

Mike Hoskins submitted a written report. He said communication is the hardest thing because programs come and go very quickly. He requested that the affiliates keep him informed of disabled activities going on in their area. The National sled team won gold medal. A lot of programs lose players to other longer running sports. The Disabled Section would like to see more official and coaching groups hold level one disabled clinics. Mike suggested that the Rocky Mountain District host the 2018 Disabled Hockey Festival. There has been early discussion about forming a Western States Sled Hockey League. Mike would like to request a budget line for disabled in the Rocky Mountain District budget to help with travel, and clinic and workshop costs. Mike was asked to put a budget together and find out if USA Hockey might cover some of it. Mike was asked to get information on rink bench modification requirements for disabled hockey. TC Lewis will also look for information on it.

### Registrar

The affiliate registrars are very excited about the new changes in online registration. There will be real time updates, and visibility of rosters. Coaches will not be rostered unless they have been through Safe Sport.

### Treasurer

Jill Day handed out actual vs budget amounts for 2014-15 and the fiscal year-end balance sheet. There was much discussion of non-use of grants and about lowering fees assessed by the district. Due to the surplus in the account, Reggie Hall made a **MOTION** to reduce fees by 25 cents per player. Dean Brandstetter seconded the motion. The motion passed with an abstention from Steve Thompson. Kathleen Smith made a **MOTION** to add a budget line item of \$2,500 each for the Disabled Representative and the ADM Representative. There was no second. The board requested that both representatives submit their proposed budget for use of the \$2,500 for approval before any reimbursements are made. The Girls/Women budget will be increased to \$3,000. The grant to the Rocky Mountain District Girls Showcase Team will be \$4,000 for 2015-16. The webmaster budget will be changed to \$1,500 for travel to one meeting per year, preferably for the June meeting. Dean Brandstetter made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed budget as amended. Kathleen Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to pay \$1,200 in trip expenses to this meeting for Kory Scoran, ADM Coordinator. Dean Brandstetter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Randy Kanai made a **MOTION** to donate \$250 to the Ron DeGregorio Goaltending Excellence Fund. Steve Thompson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### District Tournaments

The 2016 Boys Tier 1 District Tournament is to be held in Colorado. The proposed date is March 11-13, 2016. Proposals to host the tournament need to be submitted for approval by conference call in September.

The following items have been suggested by many of the Boys Tier 1 teams.

- Like the date of 2015's tournament as it relates to the National Tournament.
- Only the State Champion is invited to the district tournament.
- This would potentially mean that AZ, CO, and TX state champions would be invited to the district tournament.
- Teams from the other affiliates would do a playoff to be invited, creating a 4-team tournament. If there isn't a team in a division, the host gets the 4<sup>th</sup> team.
- Shorten the tournament to a Friday through Sunday event, with 2 games on Friday, one game on Saturday, and the Championship on Sunday.
- Combine Girls Tier 1 and 2 tournaments with the Boys Tier 1 tournament.

Geoff Pashkowski made a **MOTION** to make the above noted changes to the Rocky Mountain District Boys Tier 1 Tournament. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Tournaments within the District

Please make sure all affiliates are registering all tournaments through USA Hockey. Also make sure your teams are only participating in USA Hockey registered tournaments. Please send all of your tournament information to Neil Emerizy to post on the Rocky Mountain District website.

### **Player Development Camp**

This year's camp ran at a \$5,000 loss. This will help deplete the surplus. The transition in running the tournament from Tom Lampl to Mark Serveas was very smooth. It is anticipated that the girls' camp will lose money this year due to the Northern Plains backing out of their 25 slots without enough time to find replacements. There is a great volunteer base in Utah and a great facility. There are 8 teams in 3 brackets. Instead of the off-ice program this year, they expanded the coaches instead. Game times were extended to 1.5 hours to allow for better evaluations. It was suggested to move back to 1.25 hour games on Sunday. The camp personnel would like to extend the Utah Olympic Oval contract for 2 more years. It is important that the Affiliates give input to the camp on coaches to use.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the USA Hockey Winter meeting in Orlando Florida. There will be District call on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Day, Secretary/Treasurer  
Rocky Mountain District Hockey, Inc.