

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MEETING  
MINUTES**

Saturday, August 20, 2016  
Gaylord Texan Resort, Grapevine (Dallas), TX

**In Attendance:**

Kenney, Chris	District	Director/Chairman
Lewis, TC	District	Director
Servaes, Mark	District TX	Director Vice President
Pashkowski, Geoff	District AZ	Director Director at Large
Day, Jill	District	Secretary/Treasurer
Thompson, Darla	District TX	Registrar Registrar
Emerizy, Neil	District	Webmaster
Reckell, Tim	AZ	President
Jerome, Donnalee	AZ	Registrar
Craven, Anda	CO	Registrar
Cardasis, Susan	CO	Registrar
Heinrich, John B	ID	President
Newall, Roger	NM	Treasurer
Martinez, Karen	NM	Registrar
Hetrick, Anne	OK	Registrar
Hall, Reggie	TX	President
Nicholson, Jill	TX	Registrar
Smith, Kathleen	UT	President
Anderson, Cathy	UT	Registrar

**Absent:**

Grover, Kelly	District	High School Section Risk Manager
Reinhard, Ken	District	Referee-in-Chief
Scoran, Kory	District & ID	ADM Coordinator
Kanai, Randy	CO	President
Thompson, Steve	NM	President
Hoskins, Mike	District OK	Disabled Rep President
Graves, Bettepat	TX	Registrar

Chris Kenney called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. Introductions were made. A quorum was present to conduct business. The January 2016 minutes were approved in the June 2016 meeting.

**Future Elections**

It was noted that the district director terms of TC Lewis and Mark Servaes will expire in 2017.

**Affiliate reports**

Utah – Kathleen Smith (see written report) Things are going well after USA Hockey stepped in to help. A U15 Tier 1 team was denied by the State Board. Utah started a veteran wounded warriors program with 38 participants. They really want to go to a disabled tournament. Utah is also looking to start a blind team (only 2<sup>nd</sup> one in USA Hockey).

Arizona – Tim Reckell reported that Arizona produced the #1 NHL draft. The Youth program is backed by NHL Coyotes and growing with the financial help. Girls' workshops were well attended. Goalie camp with National program will be there. The Policies and Procedures were cleaned up and ratified by the board. They are currently updating the Bylaws and hope to be done in the next 60 days.

Texas – Reggie Hall reported growth at younger ages. There are 1300 kids enrolled in youth divisions which they hope will make up for the drop in 16 and 18 going forward. Legal issues are all resolved. Reggie suggested a legal reserve for every affiliate because USA Hockey D&O coverage leaves a big gap in coverage. Texas has a new registrar (since Darla

Thompson is now the District Registrar) and also a new coach-in-chief. They are starting a student coaching program to bring in new coaches to the leagues. They have a "Try Officiating for Free" program. Texas hosted Five Nations Tournament and it was very successful. Automatic suspension for coaches without helmets on the ice is in place. Goalies are required to have legal masks. Delay of game penalty is issued if proper equipment is missing. Texas implemented mandatory reporting of concussions and have put return to play procedures in place.

New Mexico – Roger Newall reported for Steve Thompson who was absent. The adult program is their big program. Youth program needs to grow from the bottom, and is struggling. A concussion program is being instituted. Need to increase numbers and education of coaches and officials.

Idaho – John Heinrich reported that they are trying to grow their Tier program. They will have participants in District tournaments next year.

Colorado – Susan Cardasis reported for Randy Kanai who was absent. Colorado created a grant committee to determine programs that will grow the program. Mile High Mites is growing with the help of the Avalanche. There are 500 signed up already for this fall. Disabled program is growing. High School is an issue because the school system runs a winter program outside of USA Hockey. So Colorado runs a fall and spring league. They are bringing officials groups into the associations.

### **District Reports**

Referee-in-Chief – Ken Reinhard was absent, but submitted a written report.

Webmaster – Neil Emerizy reported that Darla Thompson will be helping with registrar information on the website. Sport Engine was just purchased by NBC Sports. There is hope that they will make improvements to the program.

TC Lewis, Director - TC reported on the level 4 coaching clinics. He has been pushing for a level 5 clinic in Dallas. He is also working on a disabled coaching accreditation program. He noted receiving many requests to start the clinics in the summer so coaches aren't fighting to get it done once the season starts. The National Tournament subcommittee is looking at eliminating the quarter finals in national tournaments. There has been discussion of having three 20 minute periods, but need to find out if there is enough ice time for that program. There is also discussion on the length of the tournament and whether it ends on Sunday or Monday. TC also serves on the IT committee and would like any ideas you might have. The national tournament computer program needs to be fixed so it doesn't crash as it has the last three years. And there is discussion on a National Goal Tending program. Discussion of USA Hockey program for youth something like the Junior program to stop players from changing affiliates without making sure prior fees are paid. Maybe set up red flag on registration. TC expressed appreciation for the volunteers in the district.

Mark Servaes, Director - Mark was put on the nominating committee, too new for anything else! He loved being part of The Five Nations Tournament and it was good for the affiliate.

Chris Kenney, Director - Chris served on three Junior dispute committees this year.

District Registrar - Darla Thompson has been named District Registrar since the retirement of Bruce Karinen. Please make sure any tournament held within the District is sanctioned through her. She noted that tournament sanction requests are being received and will be placed on the website when approved. She encouraged any Sport Engine problems be submitted to Cameron Eckmyer to keep him aware of all issues.

### **District Tournaments**

No complaints were received regarding the new tournament format that was used last year. It will stay in place going forward. District Tournaments will be three weeks before National Tournaments, March 17-19, 2017. Phoenix will host the Boys Tier 1 and Girls Tier 1 and Tier II. Looking at Chandler and Gilbert arenas since Phoenix is also hosting Nationals three weeks later. Tentative Commitments were given for each age group. Tier 1 18U and 16U will have 4 teams. Tier I 15U has three teams so Colorado needs to look for a 2<sup>nd</sup> team to make it 4 teams. Girls Tier 1 19U 2 teams, 16U 2 teams, 14U possible two if Colorado has one. Girls Tier II 19U will have 3 teams, 16U will have 2 teams, and 14U will have 3 teams with maybe New Mexico for a fourth. Idaho and Utah need to have a best of 3 playoff for Boys Tier 1 18U and 16U to go to the District Tournament. Teams must commit by October 31<sup>st</sup> and once committed, a \$3000 penalty will be imposed if a team backs out. The date of the Idaho/Utah playoff will be determined and submitted in the January meeting and be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Back out penalty also includes banning participation the next year by that association at all levels. There was discussion of the cost of the playoff. It was determined that the cost would be split three ways between the 2 participating teams and the district. Geoff Pashkowski made a **MOTION** for a play down between Idaho and Utah in the Boys Tier 1 18U and 16U age group be held for the 2016-17 season. The district and each of the two teams will pay a third of the cost to play the games. The winner will still be responsible for all costs of the district tournament, Mark Servaes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The cost of district director attending the play down will be covered by the district. Chris Kenney made a **MOTION** for the Idaho and Utah teams in the play down to submit their commitment and a \$3000 non-refundable deposit to their affiliate by October 31, 2016. Games must be completed by January 31, 2017. Mark Servaes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to implement a \$3000 fine if an affiliate team that has committed by the winter meeting declines to attend the district tournament. No second was received so the Motion was tabled.

Ken Reinhard submitted a budget proposal for a 4-man officiating system for the district tournaments. This needs to be discussed for the budget to cover tournament costs. District Tournament fee for 2016-17 will be \$850.

### **National Tournaments**

Tier 2 Boys 16U National Tournament hosted by Arizona 2 years ago was successful so they wanted to do it again. Texas and Arizona are looking forward to hosting National Tournaments again in 2017.

### **Treasurer**

Jill Day handed out actual vs budget amounts for 2015-16 and the fiscal year end profit and loss and balance sheet. Chris Kenney recommended setting aside funds for a legal reserve and research a D&O policy to gap the USA Hockey insurance. Chris Kenney made a **MOTION** to reinstitute the 25 cents per player district fee that was decreased for the 2015-16 season effective with the 2017-18 season billing. There will be a \$30,000 reserve set aside today and the 25 cent increase per player will be added to the reserve each year, up to up to \$100k (could change based on coverage) Mark Servaes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Tim Reckell will contact his high school program about the insurance they have. TC Lewis made a **MOTION** to increase the proposed budget by \$5750 by adjusting the following line items:

1. Increase the Summer Meeting expense from \$2500 to \$4000.
2. Add \$500 to Donations
3. Cover last year's cost of the Girls Showcase and then remove line item from budget.
4. Pay the \$6000 for Affiliate Grants submitted for 2015-16 and then remove line item from budget.
5. Reduce Disabled Hockey travel from \$2500 to \$1500.
6. Increase Tournament Travel for Directors from \$2750 to \$3500.
7. Add Tournament Travel for Directors to Affiliate play down tournaments of \$2000.

Kathleen Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Player Development Camp**

The 16-17 age camp will be in Dallas May 12-14, 2017, The Western Regional High Performance 14 camp will be in Colorado Springs, CO June 11-17, 2017. The multi-district girl's camp will be in Colorado Springs, CO June 10-14, 2017. A conference call will be held to arrange the closing of the district camp checking account.

### **Girls Showcase**

The District team has been supplemented by local Pittsburgh girls who know the RMD coach who is a Pittsburgh resident. This year, the tournament director decided that since Minnesota had backed out and another team only had 10 players, that team would be combined with our District team, and our coach could not be on the bench. RMD cooperated with the tournament changes, but 2 of our players declined to go. With the drop in players, our team did not meet the hotel room requirements. We were not allowed to fill the rooms with parents and were charged \$1500. Since we have always struggled to get enough players and because of the treatment received this year, the Rocky Mountain District will no longer fund or send a team to the tournament.

### **District Grants to Affiliates**

Matching grants were approved to Arizona, Idaho, and Utah for the 2015-16 season.

### **Bruce Karinen Retirement**

TC Lewis, Chris Karinen, Donnalee Jerome, and many of the Utah based board members attended Bruce Karinen's retirement party in Salt Lake City Bruce was a big part of Utah Hockey before he became part of USA Hockey. Hockey pins from Bruce's treasure chest are here for anyone who wants them. Geoff Pashkowski made a **MOTION** to name the Rocky Mountain District Girls Tournament championship trophy as the Bruce Karinen trophy. TC Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be in conjunction with the USA Hockey winter meeting in Orlando, FL in January, 2017.

### **Other Business**

Roger Newall would like to see the officials as part of the team in hockey and not the opposition.

Colorado has an issue with mountain AA teams not getting the required amount of games without traveling (CO travel restrictions) and they were playing high school teams to get the count. There was discussion on how this is perceived in the District. The consensus was that as long as the competition is comparable, and USAH was okay with it, the District will leave it up to affiliate.

Chris Kenney asked if there were any Junior issues in the affiliates. He also requested input on the new rule on Tier 1 being based on percentage of players that could affect Idaho and Arizona to take to USAH.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Day, Secretary/Treasurer