

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2018
6:00 pm at Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and PeeWee Rep (via telephone)
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Robert Whited – Bantam Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Justin Steckelberg – 8U Rep

Guests:

Bob Richards – Coach-in-Chief
Jon Flynn – House League Coordinator
Shawn Schroeder – Bantam Head Coach
Miranda Briggs – 8U and 10U Parent
Darlene Moyer – 10U Parent
Amber Zietz – 10U Parent and Squirt B Team Manager
Andy Zietz – 10U Parent and Assistant Squirt B Coach
Adam Senechal – 8U and 10U Parent and Head Squirt A Coach

Absent Board Members:

None

Call to Order at 6:10 pm

Minutes

Lance moved to approve October 10th minutes. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Amendment to Bylaws

The board discussed and voted unanimously on approving the Amendment to the Bylaws giving disciplinary authority to the board, a notice of which was sent to membership in October.

Public Comment

Kurt read public comment guidelines. All guests signed in on the sheet stating they will follow public comment guidelines.

Scott Petersen read aloud the following public comment received via email:

Dear HAYHA Board,

Please read this statement out-loud as a part of this evening's board meeting. I am out of the state and am unable to attend.

- It is my understanding the bylaws state " At least 3 of the individual evaluators may have no family connection within the age division being evaluated".
- For Squirt evaluations it is believed the spirit of this was not followed and that 2 bighorn players billeted with squirt families were used
- We observed directly that during the tryouts, evaluators were not watching the players on multiple occasions

As participants in this program we submit our fees in the understanding they will be used appropriately to conduct the program according to by laws and in good faith. Utilizing teenagers as evaluators is not prudent use of our fees, we should be utilizing trained coaches from out of town with no relationship to the players or their families as has been done in the past.

Going forward, I recommend the past coaches should have some input in the decision making. As participants we invest year over year with the expectation that a player's long-term performance should be considered. From what I understand, the coach in chief made all the decision independently and without the valuable input of coaches who had committed an entire prior year to the player's development.

Respectfully Submitted
Sisi and Wil Carroll

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Darlene Moyer asked how the evaluators were picked. The board noted this and said we will answer during the Tryout Discussion following public comment.

Amber Zietz said all penalty box volunteers must be SafeSport certified and asked if taking the 1.5-hour training could count toward their volunteer hours. The board said yes.

Coach-in-Chief – Bob Richards report on Tryouts

Bob reported using similar evaluation form as last year, but a bit simplified. There were three categories with a section for comments. Players were given a 1, 2 or 3 in each category with 1 being the top skill level and 3 being the bottom skill level. Bob has all the players evals and comments if any player or parent would like to see them. Bob will keep track of bubble players this year. The evaluators he chose were: Damon (assistant coach to Bighorns), Wade Jufnon (sp?) and himself. He chose a third but that person couldn't make it so Bob filled the role. The three evaluators sat together in the "crow's nest" above the benches. After evaluations the three evaluators and Bill Shropshire, who was the coach chosen to lead tryouts and provide input on the bubble players, laid out 14 players per team. Players who got majority "1s" were A Team, players who got majority "2s" were B Team and players who received majority 3s did not make a travel team and were placed on the House Team. Bob reported that with just over 40 kids trying out, it was easy for evaluators to find the top third and the bottom third. They spent time discussing the "bubble kids" with input from Bill Shropshire.

Kurt opened the meeting to public comment on the topic of tryouts.

Adam Senechal feels the tryout process should be sharpened each year. He did not like that the Coach-in-Chief picks the evaluators, the Coach-in-Chief was an evaluator and the Coach-in-Chief was in the room making final decisions. Too much control in one person's hands when from start to finish everything is in the Coach-in-Chief's lap. He didn't feel the tryout process was set up to be that way. He thinks more input should be given by coaches, more than one coach should make the decision on who plays where. This year only one coach was able to provide only a little bit of input and the evaluators provided 90%. As the Head Squirt A coach, Adam had absolutely no input on who makes up the teams. Bob stated he was a leader and facilitator but didn't feel like he ruled all decisions. Bob said he picked Bill Shropshire because Adam did it last year and the Board agreed with that decision. Bob feels like it gets difficult when you have too many people in the room at the end. Adam wants to see at least two coaches in the room in the end.

Kurt suggests 1 or 2 more coaches in the room and also suggests we don't rush to get decisions out late at night, but take more time into the next day with the bubble kids.

Sarah said the new House League added a higher level of emotion this year. Kids aren't guaranteed a spot on a travel team now. Our program is growing and only 28 made travel, the rest play house league with the many others who signed up to play house league.

Darlene said she felt like the kids this year were the "guinea pigs" in this new process.

Mekell said nobody in our own program should be an evaluator. Two of the evaluators coached many of these kids in morning skates, making them not anonymous. It is her recommendation that we form a small group to review the try out policy before next season.

Andy Zietz also didn't feel like there was enough coach involvement in the decisions that were made.

Robert feels we drifted far away from the tryout policy itself. We changed the form. We changed the number of evaluators. Evaluators sat together when it says they are supposed to sit separately. We need to stick closer to the try out policy. That is what it is there for.

Shawn recommended more evaluators and that evaluators leave the room after providing all final scores to coaches. Coaches use age, maturity and past experience combined with evaluator scores to make final decisions. Shawn said he was involved in the creation of the try out policy approximately five years ago and that was the intent.

Mekell said she was on the board when it was created and remembers it was also the intent to have out of town evaluators who had no connection whatsoever with players and families in HAYHA.

Adam echoed Shawn's statement and suggested that the evaluators give the sheets to coaches, then leave and coaches can decide factoring in age, maturity and experience, which is stated in the try out policy.

Kurt suggested getting a small group together to take all this input, sharpen the try out policy and bring it to the board for review. He appointed Judy to lead the group with Adam and Shawn participating. Robert offered to help as well.

MAHA Concussion Requirements

Mekell and Scott reported that MAHA has a new protocol for concussion training and concussion management. All coaches must do an online training and sign a Coach Concussion Acknowledgement Form. All players and parents must sign a Parent/Athlete Concussion Acknowledgement Form. Mekell will prep instruction email and send to all reps, who can then send to their coaches and division families. This is in response to the new state requirement put into law by Governor Bullock. Once reps/managers collect all forms from players/parents, they need to be turned into Scott Petersen. All coaches will be instructed to email Scott Petersen with their Certificate of Concussion Training and their Concussion Acknowledgement Form. If coaches turn these in to reps, please forward to Scott Petersen.

MAHA Update – Mekell

MAHA is asking us to adopt a conflict of interest policy and Justin emailed out a draft policy this afternoon to board members. Board members should review this and send feedback to Justin before next board meeting.

Registrar

Lance has shut down all registrations. The High School letters of enrollment have been approved. He is taking online training to become a Super Registration certified so he can create monetary registration components without having to ask Brooke from SportEngine to do these so often. Robert was working on an online form for Reps and Team Managers to submit tournament information. He said he will post that to the website. Team Managers and Reps can then fill out this online form, the tournament information is sent to Lance and he builds online registration for tournaments. This was voted on at the last board meeting. This way all families will be required to register for tournaments online and by the deadline, eliminating reps/managers from collecting money and trying to squeeze more players in past the deadlines. Lance and Sarah are handling refunds for those players who paid for travel squirt team but made house league. They are being refunded the difference minus \$50 tryout fee.

Division Updates

U8: Judy reported 103 8U players and coaches are doing a tremendous job. The season is off to a great start. 10 teams have sent their intentions to attend 8U Helena Jamboree Feb 23 and 24th.

Squirt: 14 A players, 14 B players, 35 House Players.

Peewee: The B team starts this weekend. Team meeting and photos are on Monday. Ryan has received feedback that coaches should give tryout feedback to all players via a phone call or visit with them at the next practice. Coaches can tell them what things they should be working on. He motioned for Executive Session.

Bantam: 15 league games are scheduled and Missoula working with us to get 16 games.

High School: Sarah reported that one player has dropped so they are now at 24. Sarah would like to refund the player's money because he got hurt and was only at one practice. His mother already purchased \$150 game jerseys, which we can't refund. Sarah moved. Robert seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

SafeSport – Scott Petersen

Scott asked that all reps send him their manager names, locker room monitor names and coach's names so he can continue to check to see they are SafeSport certified.

Equipment – Randy Boysen

Randy said we have rented 88 sets of equipment. He has about half of the bigger sizes left for House kids that may start in January. He has spent the \$5,000 that was allotted but he needs another \$1,500 to purchase items for second session and to have a few extra sizes on hand should kids grow out of their skates during the season. Robert moved that Randy spend up to \$1,500 on equipment and Judy seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Raffle – Mekell

Mekell had tickets for each division to hand out and sheets for parents to sign off that they received their packets. Families already paid for these tickets with their \$25 fundraising fee (included in their online registration payments). When they sell these tickets, families keep this money. Or they can choose to write their names on each ticket for a chance to win the prizes. Mekell ordered some extra packs of tickets if families are interested in selling more. All divisions will receive their tickets tonight, except 8U and House. 8U and House will get them in December after we know who is playing just one session. Players playing just one session, get half of the tickets. All tickets are due back February 18th.

Cookie Dough

Amber Guge will distribute cookie dough packets to all division reps. The sales period is November 8 through November 22nd. Last year HAYHA had enough in sales that families received 50% back from their sales. This money goes toward players hockey fees.

Disciplinary Policy—Kurt

Kurt wanted to note that the board received some comments on the disciplinary policy and the board is going to table this discussion until spring time, approximately April 2019.

Treasurer – Sarah Garcia

The HAYHA checking account balance is \$153,468. Sarah did pay a budgeted amount of \$18,783.33 to the rink. This is before the adjustment that needs to be made with the Zamboni breaking down. She will work with Jaymie Noble on this. There are \$20,889 in outstanding invoices.

Next Meeting – December 10th 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena

Board Entered Executive Session.

Meeting Adjourned.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____