

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2019
5:30 p.m. Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and PeeWee Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Judy Merickel –Secretary and 8U Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Scott Petersen – Member at Large / SafeSport Coordinator
Randy Boysen – Member at Large / Program Development (Girls and Goalies)
Allison Riddle – 8U Rep
Darryl James – Squirt Rep
John Flynn – House Rep

Absent Board Members:

Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and Bantam Rep

Guests:

Trent Sobeck and Troy Green – High School Coaches

Meeting Called to Order 5:36 p.m.

Minutes

Lance motioned to approve the June meeting minutes that Mekell Lybbert had emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Sarah seconded. All were in favor and motion carries.

Public Comment

None. Troy and Trent wish to speak during the High School discussion.

Rink Update – Kurt

Brandon Vonada will be coming to the board meetings this year but couldn't make tonight's meeting.

Coach-in-Chief Hiring Process – Lance

Mekell, Ryan and Lance will serve as Coach-in-Chief hiring committee. They will assess applicants and bring recommendations to the board at the August meeting. Lance will ask Craig Reinhardt if he is interested in serving as the Evaluation Coordinator for this year's Tryouts. Judy will email Lance the Tryout Policy.

Fees – Lance

Judy and Scott suggested keeping fees the same since our ice fees are the same and we are in good financial standing with cash in the bank. Lance moved to keep fees the same for this season as they were for last season. Darryl seconded. All were in favor and motion carries.

High School Discussion – Sarah Garcia, Trent and Troy

Sarah Garcia, Shawn Schroeder, Bob Richards, Trent Sobeck and Troy Green met as a subcommittee to form the following recommendation for the board.

Proposal for HAYHA HS Teams 2019-2020 Season:

The group discussed a number of options for the upcoming season. At the meeting were both high school coaches, Bob Richards, Shawn Schroeder, Sarah Garcia, and Scott Petersen.

The group agreed to call the HAYHA HS teams—JV and Varsity. Per MAHA, the JV team will play 16 regular season games with a “Montana Cup” competition at the end of the season. Varsity will play 20 regular season games with 8 teams making it to state. Propose that HAYHA pay for one non-regular season tournament for the JV team—and all high school players will pay same fees of \$1050.

- 1) Potential for 27 players with 2 goalies (possible 2-4 of 27 will not return)
 - a. 9 Sophomore - 2003's*
 - b. 8 Junior - 2003's*
 - c. 3 Senior – 2002's*
 - d. 7 Freshmen/Sophomore – 2004's**
- 2) Coaches do not want try-outs to determine teams, but will cross-roster players between JV and Varsity based on their discretion
 - a. Both teams will have a “core” group with a segment who will cross-roster between JV and Varsity. All 2003's and older will have the opportunity to play Varsity, but all may not.*
 - b. Varsity core group, e.g. seniors or those with higher hockey skills playing Varsity*
 - c. Goal is to allow more even playing time for all players. Using JV for players who need more development and allow them to compete against teams more evenly matched in skill level.*
 - d. Coaches want both teams to practice together for every practice.*
 - e. Take both goalies to both Varsity and JV games-as much as possible.**
- 3) Asked MAHA about the 50% games played rule to qualify for Varsity state tournament.*
- 4) There's 7 freshmen 2005's that are 2nd year Bantams. The group agreed that they would not be considered for either high school team unless absolutely needed the numbers. Not sure if this could even be done and would have to figure out how to cross-roster this way and what we would charge for fees for these players.*

After discussion, Judy motioned to approve this recommendation. Sarah seconded. All were in favor and motion carries. Trent and Troy asked the board to recruit a JV head coach and to

schedule JV and Varsity games in the same towns, the same evenings/weekends as much as possible. The board agreed.

Girls Program – Randy

The board discussed ways to run the Friday practices 4:20 – 5:20 p.m. They quickly opted to not have it be drop-in, because that is too hard to estimate and manage. Instead members discussed having it be an add-on for registration. Judy counted the number of Fridays during the season from October 11 to March 6, not counting holidays, and there were 20 practices. $20 \times \$245$ per hour for ice = \$4,900. Lance reported there were 44 registered girls last year. $\$4,900 / 44$ girls = \$111 per player. Board members seemed to rally around a \$100 price point for the girls what wanted to take advantage of these all-girl practices. Board members discussed that this program should be for girls of all ages who can already skate. They also felt it was for HAYHA girls and not girls from outside cities. But the board wanted to discuss this more at the next meeting.

Judy motioned to set the Friday afternoon Girls Program at an add-on fee of \$100, which any HAYHA girl, who knows how to skate, can select during registration. Lance seconded. All were in favor and motion carries.

Allison asked about advertising. Judy said the board should add a blurb to registration page, home page and each division rep should email it out to their email lists once registration opens.

Judy mentioned that we need to recruit a head coach, but there seems to be plenty of willing helpers. High School Coaches, Trent Soback and Troy Green, both said they are willing to help when in town.

Goalie Development – Randy

Randy asked Lance to put a blurb into the first registration page asking coaches and players who are interested in goalie development to can contact Randy. Judy suggested adding a goalie development checkbox to registration so we can automatically assembly an email list.

Randy reported that Rob Smith, a Mite Coach and former college goalie, is very interested in working on this program and may possibly lead it with the help of other goalie coaches such as Brandon Vonada, Jeb Pedrazzi, Lisa Prescott, Denny Lester and others. He will reach out to Rob Smith and see if they can get a schedule nailed down to book with the rink. Board members suggested having some goalie clinics prior to the season starting and/or early in the season and then every other week in the morning during the season.

Equipment – Randy

Randy secured a bid for half-ice boards from the same company that Billings bought theirs from last year. He also google searched for other companies and found prices to be higher but also

there is a limited number of vendors making these boards. The company that Billings used is out of Minnesota and it will cost around \$12,000 for two sets of half-ice boards. These board will be used for mite games (half-ice), termite games (cross-ice) and they could potentially be used for 3 vs 3 leagues or tournaments, however the board needs to discuss possible rental fees for such use. The board discussed needing half-ice boards for sure in the 2020-2021 season when squirts will go to half-ice and they also discussed it being highly beneficial for mite program development. Allison motioned that the board purchase two sets of half-ice boards for this season. Scott seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carries.

Randy has also started putting a bid together for purchasing additional equipment for the upcoming season which the board had already allotted spending for this at a previous meeting. He will send the bid out to local hockey shops and report back at the next meeting.

MAHA Update

Mekell will be attending MAHA meeting end of July and will email an update to the board.

Bylaws – Darryl

Darryl spent a lot of time combing through the current bylaws and sent recommended changes to the board via email prior to the meeting. Board members agreed that the bylaws contain antiquated language and veteran board members said it's something the board has wanted to update for some time.

Kurt recalled last season's board work on the issue of amending bylaws. He said that prior to the bylaw amendment to add disciplinary authority, he consulted with past-President John Bloomquist concerning this issue and the effect of Section 16.1. John concluded that Section 16.1 could be read in such a manner as to require notice to the membership prior to Board action to amend the bylaws. That is Kurt's legal opinion as well. And as such, that is how the board proceeded last year when making the changes to include the disciplinary authority section – it notified the membership through a mailing a piece titled "Notice of Intent to Adopt an Amendment to the Bylaws of HAYHA".

Kurt encouraged the board to take it step by step, with the highest priority being adding the two changes completed last season:

1. The addition of the Amendment to Bylaws 7.17 giving disciplinary authority to the board. It gives the board authority to carry out its disciplinary policy. Thirty-day notice was sent to membership last fall and after such notice, the board adopted this change at its November meeting.
2. The addition of the Amendment to Bylaws adding two additional board members – House League Rep (1-year term) and Member-at-Large/Program Development (2-year term). Membership approved this through a vote in April 2019.

After discussing the best way to formerly add these two amendments into the bylaws and recognizing that the bylaws aren't currently in a edit friendly document (all we have is a pdf), Allison motioned that Darryl would incorporate the two amendments through appendices. Lance seconded. All were in favor and motion passed. Darryl will attach the amendments as Appendix A and Appendix B to the bylaws.

Kurt thanked Darryl for all his work on the bylaws and asked all board members to review Darryl's other bylaw edits and send suggestions to Darryl for consideration at future board meeting.

Suspension for Failure to Pay – Darryl

The board discussed the best approach to implementing player suspension when parents fail to pay by December 31st. To start, Lance will add a blurb to the beginning of registration stating that no player with a balance from the previous year will be allowed to register. Sarah reminded everyone that families who had a balance last January were sent to collections. As for moving forward into the season, Darryl is going to draft possible amendments to bylaws and/or policy for suspension based on failure to pay (ie. "no pay, no play"). Kurt suggested drafting a short sentence to include in a new subsection of the bylaws authorizing the board to adopt such a policy, as well as drafting a short policy setting forth procedures, including any necessary to comply with USA Hockey Bylaw 10. The suspension from failure to pay policy would exist outside of the Bylaws, only the authority to create it would be in the Bylaws. This method was the same one John Bloomquist suggested last year as an effective way to implement the disciplinary policy, and Kurt feels HAYHA would be best served by doing the same for the failure to pay policy. It provides the Board with necessary flexibility and does not involve amending the Bylaws when changes to the related policy are required.

Website

Miles Wacker responded to Lance's email to membership asking for a website administrator for the 2019-2020 season. Board members can send website changes to Miles. Judy suggested getting blurbs up right away about this season's new offerings -- girls and goalies development programs.

Registration – Lance

Registration is ready to go, except for the addition of girls' program and goalie development text. Lance will add these descriptions and send it to board members to register their players and report any problems they encounter. Following this, he will open registration to membership and announce it with an email. The board discussed registration deadline. Scott motioned for the deadline to be September 13 to give reps a week to declare teams to MAHA. 8U and House programs registration will remain open until 2 weeks into the start of their seasons. Judy and John will tell Lance when to shut it down for 8U and House. Lance will reach

out to Paula regarding timeline for ordering game jerseys. This will go out separately from registration.

Treasurer – Sarah

There is \$93,066.29 in the checking account. Sarah paid the final check to Coach-in-Chief. She asked the board to approve hiring a bookkeeper to do HAYHA’s taxes. Board agreed.

SafeSport – Scott

Scott said those who took SafeSport last year do not have to take it again this year. He is going to email head person to double check.

Other

Kurt reported that Paula has agreed to handle rink scheduling and jersey orders again this year. Amber has agreed to handle ref scheduling and cooking dough fundraiser again this year.

Kurt obtained a quote from Payne West for renter’s insurance for the equipment we have stored in the new room upstairs at the rink. IT was \$500 per year for \$40,000 worth of coverage. After discussion, he is going to follow up and ask about coverage for the new half-ice boards.

Judy asked if coaching applications were coming in and Lance said a few have applied. He will send a reminder with registration. Judy will email a reminder to all of the 8U coaches.

Items for August Meeting

- Coach-in-Chief hiring.
- Creating a Player Suspension for Failure to Pay Policy.
- Look at additional amendments to the bylaws including authority to enforce a suspension for failure to pay policy.
- Decision to purchase renter’s insurance for equipment room. Kurt is going to ask Payne West about including \$12,000 in cross-ice boards.
- Appointing Evaluation Coordinator.
- Equipment purchases.
- Goalie Development Program.
- Girls Development Program.

Next Meeting: August 5th, 5:30 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena.

Meeting Adjourned 8:34 p.m.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____