



**NED Minutes - October 19, 2024  
Presidents and Directors Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Directors: Chris Washburn, Cheri Bonawitz, Richard Oliver, Sarah Fraser  
Affiliate Presidents: Matt Roy (NH), John Cioffi (VT), Chuck Wilkerson (CT), Mike Keaney (ME), Andrew Giuliano (RI)  
NED Board Support Staff: Ray St. Pierre (District Admin/Interim Director), Kim Gaines (Secretary), Mike McCullough (Registrar)  
Guests: Jason Guerriero (Northeast ADM), Dawn Bryson (CT), Mike Federico (CT)

Called to order at 8:05am / adjourned 3:45pm (CT 1<sup>st</sup> – RI 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**\*\*\*\*\*R.Oliver makes a motion to accept the Spring 2024 minutes as written. – VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*NH makes a motion to approve Chuck Wilkerson as the new NED Director to finish the remainder of the term for Tom Regan - RI seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*NH makes a motion to appoint Sarah Fraser as the new NED Player Development Director to replace Tom Regan - ME seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*ME makes a motion to appoint Mike Federico as the new NED Treasurer to replace Jake Strong – VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion)\*\*\*\*\***

**\*President Reports**

- ME (Mike Keaney): Split season wrapping up, significant uptick in game misconducts and match penalties already, registration seems steady year over year, pretty good shape with officials but working on skill mix, Maine board is stable with no vacancies, Maine purchased intermediate nets for all the rinks for use at 10U games this season

- NH (Matt Roy): up and running, younger ages started a couple weeks ago, Tier 1 seems to be a bit of a mess and working on setting a policy for the 3 teams and 2 allocations, 8U event went well (200+ kids), did parity for the first time in the Granite State League (10s & 12s) - played 4 games and divisional VPs ranked everyone
- VT (John Cioffi): little to no split season drama, couple of 16 & 18 full season teams, equipment trailer seems to be very busy this year, major issues with officials – need 200+ but have 75, using and covering costs for gamesheet for the first time this year and working through some hurdles, working through 1 Safe Sport issue and looking to fill a couple of positions
- RI (Andrew Giuliano): started the season with a lot of match penalties but it has settled down, noticing issues with penalty inaccuracies within gamesheets but possibly due to user errors that needs more attention and training, VP started a program for reimbursing programs for utilizing medium sized nets at the younger ages, new program (purchased by Black Bear), potentially 3 new sheets of ice being built
- CT (Chuck Wilkerson): CT has had 200 more games vs this time last year due to an increase of tournaments, CT purchased quick change goalie gear for the local programs and local coordinator is a doing a great job with increased clinics for young/new goalies, split season leagues going mostly well, have appreciated the algorithm used during league play to determine tournament standings for non-tournament bound divisions last 5 years, match penalties have not been that bad

\*Financial report (Mike Federico) – P&L provided through September 30 (see attached). Going to keep 990 on a cash basis but future reporting will be on an accrual basis. Going to utilize a new email address [nedtreasurer@nedusah.org](mailto:nedtreasurer@nedusah.org). Need to have longer/bigger conversations about budget, funding NED and camp revenue and expenses. Consider some infrastructure changes to be proposed at the next meeting.

**\*\*\*\*\*NH makes a motion that the organization has authorized the appointment of Michael Federico and Cheri Bonawitz, and the removal of Tom Regan and Jacob Strong as signers to the New England District TD Bank Account. They will join current signers Ray St. Pierre and Chris Washburn. - VT seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) \*\*\*\*\***

\*Player Development (Group conversation) - With Jason Guerriero moving to USA Hockey role, reimagine Player Development process on the youth side.

Proposal to have Bobby Rodrigue be the Youth Development Lead and have Directors at each of the age levels. Have someone be the face of the camp and admin behind the scenes. Pay structure and roles would change but better cost and logistics. Have 3 coaches in mind for vetting – move 15s, 16s & 17s to Simsbury same weekend. Need formal proposal and pay consideration at future meeting. Looking at Easter Sunday – Apr 17 to 20 with Sunday All Star games. 14 Camp looking at July 22-26.

**\*\*\*\*\*CT makes a motion to accept new structure proposal - ME seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) \*\*\*\*\***

Meet and Greet with Jason Guerriero, new ADM Director for Northeast NED & Mass Hockey Region

\*Registrar (Mike McCullough): Registration numbers will be shared with Presidents, NED currently around 35,000. Reviewed Tier 1 allocations with each state. Discussed roster and Maine residency issue that surfaced recently. 8 members of T1 commission with 2 subcommittees tasked with helping make a level playing field– 1) Roster size, vertical integration, tournament size, game count eligibility – 2) residency – recommendations to deliver by 11/1.

\*Ref-in-Chief (RSP on behalf of Barry Zalcman): Increase in level 1 and 2, flat level 3 and decrease in level 4 (does this take into account refs that leave and come back?). CT up 10, NH up 5, RI down 10, VT down 50. Not enough lower-level games for new refs. New curriculum no longer has mandatory on ice, options to attend on ice clinics have not been well attended. Registration will open 4/1, it is a rule change year. New neck laceration requirements have had very good compliance but not 100%. Barry will be the Ref IT liaison for IT initiatives at Colorado. Arbiter (ME, VT, CT) – USA has banned the affiliate fee going forward and won't cover this. How can NED work with refs to help meet their needs? The states utilizing it will consider supporting the costs. Subcommittee to review RIC – Chuck W, Mike K, Matt R, Chris W

\*Player Safety (RSP on behalf of Matt Bain): Neck lacerations are required, should be enforced at practice as well which puts less pressure on refs at games. Material should not be folded up or modified. Concussion reporting form should be sent to state level or him, should not contain any identifying information, can be found on NED & USA Hockey website

\*Risk Manager (RSP on behalf of Kevin Fascetta): 125 COIs requested since 9/1. Must submit request from USA Hockey website along with contract. At this time one injury from CT has filed a claim with USA Hockey.

\*Tournaments (Richard Oliver): Confirming no 10U regionals and MA will not be participating in 2024-25 tournaments. Will work on standardizing the rules and tournament details, otherwise follow the same model as previous years. See matrix for most up to date allocations.

- Hats to Champions
- Banners to Champions
- Medals to Champions & Runner Ups (use even though they have MA logo)

\*Futures (Matt Roy): Confirming dates are locked in for March 21-23. UNH backed out so event will be held at Rinks at Exeter and Ice Den in Hooksett. Same template as years past and has been provided, names from tryouts to be delivered to Mike McCullough by Feb 1. Provide swag contact used by VT.

\*Disabled (Richard Oliver): Still need to find a rep – potential opportunity in NH, people will be connected. Rule book will be circulated, continue to work on organizing smaller events together in and around New England.

\*Girls Player Development (Cheri Bonawitz & Kim Gaines): Continue to bat around ideas on ways to keep this trajectory successful. Going to have a sub-meeting with Cheri, Kim, Kristi & Sarah to make sure everyone is on the same page and present final 2025 plan back to NED. Like the boys side, tryouts to also take place April 18-20 and will return to Marlborough, MA. The June camp if confirmed to remain at St. A's and potential to include younger ages where the interest is stronger. This event is a standalone experience and not a path to another camp but incredibly valuable to the development of girls hockey.

\*Rules Committee (Sarah Fraser): with 315 pages of rule proposals, it is likely most of them will get blocked. The order in which they are presented however will likely impact how they are voted.

\*USA Hockey Finance (Chris Washburn): Fee increases for January, CPI adjuster concept was presented in Denver with a proposal in front of congress to adopt as a guideline ongoing. Continue to see headwinds in financial reports.

\*Old Business - N/A

\*New Business

- Gifts for exiting district members:  
**\*\*\*\*\*NH makes a motion for a \$1,500 travel gift card for Tom Regan and \$1,500 visa gift card for Charlie Fortier - ME seconds – ALL IN FAVOR (motion carried, no discussion) \*\*\*\*\***
- Plan for Winter meeting in Nashville - Ray to start putting together details – group dinners Thursday & Friday, Saturday on your own
- Spring Meeting – Apr 25 & 26 - bigger event / central location (Hilton in Manchester perhaps)