



MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY OPEN MEETING  
June 16, 2018  
MEETING MINUTES

The Open Meeting of Massachusetts Hockey was held on Saturday June 16, 2018 at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, Massachusetts

John Tobin called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

John Tobin welcomed all board members presented his opening remarks. John Tobin introduced USA Hockey President Jim Smith.

Jim Smith provided the membership with an overview of current USA Hockey matters, including grant funds to affiliates including Massachusetts Hockey, the USA Hockey Rink in Plymouth Michigan, registration levels throughout the country and how USA Hockey had 122,000 8U registrations this past season and has shown growth and retention at the 9-14 age levels. Jim informed the board that there are currently 48,000 youth and 10,000 girls players registered in Massachusetts and 58,000 coaches registered nationwide. Jim discussed USA Hockey's new diversity and inclusion initiatives to increase participation in non-traditional markets. Jim discussed the growth in the 6 disciplines of adaptive hockey. Jim discussed the role of Safe Sport in USA Hockey and the issues presented in the USOC Michigan State matter. He presented information on how USA Hockey's process in developing the ADM Model from its inception in showing numbers the declining enrollment numbers from 2002-2004 and how USA Hockey has shown tremendous growth numbers relative to other youth sports and how basketball, football and the PGA are now using variations of the concepts set forth in the ADM model in their sports. Jim discussed USA Hockey's efforts to support coaches in the development of goaltenders and the USA Hockey goal of increasing its numbers at the NHL level from currently 20% of the rostered goalies to 50% by 2030. Jim informed the board of the appointment of John Van Biesbruck's appointment to handle matters relating to overseeing the national teams and matters relating to the international level and Kevin McLaughlin would be handling the domestic side of USA Hockey matters. Jim informed the board that USA Hockey was proud to say that it had earned 2 gold medals in international competition and medaled in 6 of 7 competitions. Jim concluded by taking some questions from the floor.

Mike Dargin from the Boston Bruins discussed the Bruins Learn to Play program and its relationship with Massachusetts Hockey. Mike informed the board that it was the Bruins goal to distribute more than 5,000 sets of new gear over 80 rinks this fall. He discussed the mini-one on one and the coaching symposium that was going to be held at Warrior Rink in September.

Roger Grillo discussed the growth and success of the ADM model as well as the importance of getting the player development camps onto college rinks.

DJ Briggs advised the board on the Massachusetts Goaltending Development efforts including holding a goaltending summit and efforts to develop a comprehensive coaching education program and a high performance goaltending clinic. DJ discussed the benefits of the quick change pads and use of intermediate size nets on getting more players interested in goaltending and keeping the confidence by allowing younger players to guard a smaller size appropriate net.

Nick McCummings updated the board on the efforts to grow the adaptive hockey section and indicating he was looking for volunteers to assist with two upcoming blind hockey events. Nick also discussed the new Women's sled hockey development program.

The Board was presented with a video presentation from Daniel Carcillo on the impact of head injuries and concussions in hockey and his efforts to try to prevent others from suffering the experiences he has endured as a result of head injuries in hockey.

Doc Ashare and Tom Smith discussed player safety issues and the initiative to reduce concussions. The three points of emphasis presented by Doc focused on playing rules, equipment and coaching techniques.

Tom Smith discussed the mission statement of the Safety Committee and the three points of emphasis being on hygiene, concussion safety program (look up line, heads up don't duck) and a drug awareness initiative. Tom commented how Kevin Stevens has used his experiences in trying to bring awareness to the drug issues.

The Board was presented with a video from Dr. Ann McKee on the efforts of the BU CTE Center on the issues of CTE and hockey.

Mike DiOrio gave a presentation on his duties as Program Support Coordinator. In the first year, he has updated the program database to include high ranking officials from all Massachusetts Hockey associations. Attention is being focused on the programs that have been responsive to MH initiatives and those who are seeking help. In year two, there will be a continued focus on supporting all programs with various initiatives that Mass Hockey offers to our membership as well as working with the CEP group to have a greater presence at coaching clinics. The response so far has been very positive.

Steve Fitzgerald updated the board on Risk Management matters discussed at the USA Hockey Meeting.

Paul Moore discussed the Coaching Clinics and new mobile app for coaches.

Kevin Donovan discussed the pilot program he is working on to increase the number of officials.

Steve Palmacci oversaw the selection of hosts for the youth state tournaments.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:42am