

Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

President Misi Watters called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Chris Larowe, Kristi Tennie, Carrie Rose, and Suzanne Doody noted as absent.

Audience: Sue Culbertson and Jerry O’Gara

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

none

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Secretary – Betsy McCrary

Minutes from the February meeting were distributed to the Board. There were no email votes since the last meeting. Jason made a motion to approve January meeting minutes. Stacy seconded the motion. Brenda abstained since she was not here. Everyone else approved. Motion passed.

b. Treasurer – Nichole Jesberger

Nichole emailed budget to date. If something seems odd, please let her know. She is finishing up the workers’ comp audit document for review. It’s due March 21. Jason made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. Stacy seconded. All approved.

c. President Elect – Brian Sullivan

Nothing

d. Past President – Stacy Hollfelder

– SP Ice Update

Last meeting –

Games (video) are gone. Heaters were repaired by John Nesson, with additional repairs anticipated. SP Ice Janitor Mike is quitting effective March 16. Chamber mixer went well. SP Ice thanked Betsy for conducting the tour. The mixer generated some advertising leads. US Cellular wants to sponsor and do something at a high school game. The SP Ice Board would like to do one of these every year.

Skater sharpener has been looked at by Spence, and he recommended that SP Ice not buy it. Instead, the board approved buying a refurbished one from the dealer. Spence will do training when it arrives. Larry will come to pick up the one from the old pro shop.

e. President – Misi Watters

Misi confirmed that there will be a closed session.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Volunteer Committee – Nichole has been working closely with them as the year ends. Hours seem to still be picked up. She is hoping to send invoices within the next week. Lisa Wendler (webmaster) sent a note that next season’s DIBS session is open, and the new volunteer season starts April 1. Nichole suggested a video or on-line training on how to register. There are some people who are interested in helping with webmaster as well.

b. Annual Fundraising Committee – Last drawing was last week. It seemed to go smoothly. Angie Hadley is interested in doing it again next season.

c. Communications Committee – Mark Lea had put together some information that would be helpful for new squirt parents. It will be forwarded to the board.

d. Cardinal Cup Committee – Sue reported that Monica Gross has decided that she won’t be able to be the tournament director next year. The only true committee was Monica Gross and Sue Culbertson. There is an instruction binder that covers everything. They would like to do complete registration online. Somehow, we need to flag out of state teams more, because it still presents ongoing challenges. Monica has some ideas that she wants to sit down and talk about after the season, before next year is set up.

e. Concession Stand Committee – nothing

- f. ACE Director(s) –Jerry said last week’s breakout and beverages session with Barry Richter was awesome. Chris Finkler and Shad Kernan came as varsity and WEHL coaches, respectively. It was great, that mite through varsity coaches were there. Good news is that they are also way under budget. Jerry bought two sweatshirts for the guest speakers, and he will turn in receipts.

Updates/proposal regarding evaluations to be discussed later in the agenda.

- g. Region 4 Meeting

Paula went to the last meeting, and shared the following notes:

Call to order at 7:05

Pervious Minutes correction: Out of 48 cancelled games 9 were canceled due to lack of officials, remainder were due to clubs pulling out.

Play off weekends: Thanks to all the volunteer workers.

ALD Reports:

RWB - Intermediate nets are encouraged, and almost all associations are now using them. Those who are not are encouraged to change.

Regarding Rat Programs/ practices/games for non-competitive kids who don’t want to move to squirts, transfer rules are in affect for these programs and games.

Squirts: Play offs went well thanks for all who helped

Treasurer’s Report

\$5000 available. Checks have been issued for Felton Kelsey scholarships this year.

WAHA

Thanks to Dane Co. Officials Association had the best year yet for playdowns. There were 25 divisions in 3 days, and out of 75 games only 1 game was one official short due to injury. Approximately 56 officials used 7 sheets of ice, at ~ \$19k and 123.75 hours of ice time. \$6k for officials = \$25k for playoffs. Teams charged for each game and all are on the invoices.

March 15th is WAHA bylaw change or rule change submission deadline.

Officials

In Jan - 591 games requested, 8 were late, 56 were canceled, 13 due to no officials, for 43 association cancelled.

New Business

Assocation login needed to accept/reject game assignments. Discussing accepting younger officials if the association is good with it to help fill the need of officials. Treasurers log in needed before managers can have log in and extension is granted. This can be requested online

Please submit any suggestions to help fill official positions & recruit more.

Pressing zero tolerance will ALL officials regardless of age.

This starts with coaches and parents.

Old Business,

This summer meeting changes to league, May June July possibly to 3rd Wednesday of the month. Location TBD

April 18th is election day...still need treasurer, also last season meeting.

Club news

Stoughton 3x3 tournament March 11

Waunakee jamboree March 9-11 U6 and RWB

Jason and Misi attended a rather contentious meeting led by Matt Goetzke of the Polar Caps. He wanted to life the requirement that girls don’t need transfer rules to change associations. Everyone who talked was not in favor, but some didn’t say anything. There were good ideas shared, but there the impression was that some were afraid to speak up.

There were multiple comments made about “these girls are too good to play with those girls.” This type of language was very frustrating to hear from anyone in a leadership position.

Misi is going to the March Region 4 meeting.

4. LEVEL REP REPORTS

- a. Mini-Mite – Kristie Tennie – Absent. Misi said the Waunakee mini-mite jamboree was awesome. They also went to the Capitols game and it was also a really fun activity. Brendan really put together a nice activity. Nichole said they also loved doing the varsity game earlier in the season.
- b. Mite – Paula Austad – She asked about coaches plaques. They are in the office. They went to Dubuque, and the kids thought it was great. It was their first overnight. The \$1 bake sale was awesome. They did keep score.
- c. Squirt - Carrie Rose – Absent.
- d. PeeWee – Chris LaRowe – Absent
- e. Bantam – Brenda Egli – Nothing
- f. Midget – Suzanne Doody – Played in four tournaments, won two, took second at St. Louis. Ended the season at 26-7, Still needs to collect final tournament fees, has discussed tournament fees.
- g. Coaches’ rep. – Jason Ledford – Season is over.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Evaluation Policy

Jerry talked to a bunch of associations, Shad Kernen, Coach Finkler, and spent a lot of time getting feedback. We have four tryouts, which is pretty consistent. 50% scrimmage/50% skills, at least four evaluators, who fill out forms. 10% tie breaker is coachability. On-ice coaches from age group who are not involved in evaluations, and they don’t have input. They do take instructions from evaluators (e.g., match-ups). Players receive a combined score, don’t take anything in past into consideration. Currently allow up to two evaluators who have kids at that level, but their parents can’t score their own kids. Our evaluations are open, and he was surprised that many associations did not have open evaluations. We also don’t select coaches until kids are placed. Some select coaches in advance, and those coaches have input on the teams. ACE Director has oversight of the evaluation program. Those with outside evaluators have found there would be more mistakes with that. Some associations send a reminder outlining what is involved and what behaviors are considered.

Jerry also noted that some associations have assigned goalie evaluators with a scorecard. Some associations even start assigning teams after the first practice, and then start moving kids around.

Jerry likes to have at least one evaluator who knows the kids, but it’s harder at squirts.

Jason noted that there are probably three kids on each team that could go up or down (“bubble” kids). His thoughts were that he knows the kids who end up placed on lower level will be successful at that level, and will probably have a “better” time than those who would be moved to a higher level and find themselves struggling at that level.

Jerry had received some feedback questioning how jerseys were assigned in advance. He had just randomly assigned by alphabet. There was nothing to read into jersey assignments, but it still a cause of concern for some people.

After all of his research, Jerry presented the following recommendations:

- No changes in evaluation policy
- Include a qualified/dedicated goalie evaluator at each level. He has a goalie-specific evaluation form, and a commitment for someone to evaluate squirts/peewees and be there consistently.
- Send out evaluation forms
- Receive an “evaluation sheet” from previous mite coach in case of tie-breakers, wouldn’t be looked at unless there was a need.

- Let's not post rosters until after the evaluators all leave the rink to avoid confrontation.

Jason believes that a certain number of parents will complain who don't know how to deal with a disappointed child.

Brenda suggested also getting attendance information for mites from coaches.

Stacy thought maybe we should set a time and post evaluations, rather than doing it same day.

Brian mentioned that he talked to Joliet midget coach, who is also their president. Their system is very similar to ours; however, they "lock down" the process for three years. The board sets the policy/parameters, and doesn't change anything for three years to really get it a feel for it. At that point, they can re-evaluate. Nichole agreed that you can't just start changing things after a year, the process needs time to settle in.

There was additional discussion about open versus closed process. Maybe change things around a little and frame it as "Don't cause stress to your child by watching tryouts."

Sue asked about evaluators with players on the same level. Jerry thought more often than not, there is more value in having some parent evaluators. Sue thinks that adding the information in a letter upfront.

(Brian had to leave at 7:46 pm.)

Nichole suggested modeling and sharing similar information at mini-mites and mites, too, that builds on what our travel program has, so it is less of a surprise when they get to squirts.

Misi said it sounds like we have the program and tweaks. Jerry will contact mite coaches about their evaluations.

Board thanked Jerry for all of the research. He will send his formal presentation to the board to review.

b. Share Nights

Paula still needs to work on this.

c. 2018-2019 Scheduling

Betsy reported that the first draft of the full schedule was submitted to Tony on March 1 as requested. She needs to request a few changes. Playdowns have now been set, which will require some changes. Try Hockey dates are still tentative, but Kevin from USA Hockey believes they will be the weekends he indicated. The hope is that the transition program can be part of mini-mites (starting around the same time) to avoid the challenges of not having coaches available. Not knowing for certain the DCL mite schedule requirements (start dates, what weekends they must avoid) until fall is also problematic.

At this point, Betsy is not interested in continuing as scheduler for the 2018-2019 season, although much of the heavy lifting is done from a schedule perspective. She doesn't know when Tony will get back to her with adjustments, although she doesn't believe it will be before mid-April. It was suggested that Betsy contact Jim Sullivan to see if he would be interested in taking over scheduling as a paid position, and that SPYHA would work to make payments in a breakdown that would work for him.

Stacy is still willing to schedule referees next season.

d. Try Hockey for Free Wrap-up

We had 81 players on March 3. There was plenty of on-ice help, which was awesome! Second session volunteers off-ice were really sparse, and fortunately some of the midget players stayed back to help until all of the kids were on the ice, and then they went on the ice to help. There were 17 signed up for transition program (three sessions). It was a huge struggle to find coaches willing to commit for this program, though.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Membership Changes (release and admittance requests)

None

b. Appointments (committee)

- Equipment manager (replacement) – Mark Kuehn is Dan Carpiaux's brother-in-law, and he is interested in helping in the equipment room. Trent Kreitlow had noted they could use one more to get the crew back to three equipment managers. Jason made a motion to appoint Mark Kuehn as an equipment manager for the 2018-2019 season. Paula seconded it. All approved.
- Nomination committee – Stacy and Betsy agreed to serve on the committee.

c. Locker room behavior

Tabled for next meeting.

d. SP Ice Director Appointment

Jen Kurtz's term on the SP Ice Board is up as of June 30, 2018. She has been out of town and Betsy hasn't been able to discuss her decision to continue with her. She is expected back within the week, and she will then. SP Ice bylaws indicate that SPYHA needs to notify SP Ice of any changes in appointments in March. Betsy will report back. Jason asked if Stacy would serve if Jen didn't want to continue, and she said she would be willing to.

e. Annual Meeting (schedule)

Based on various late May activities as well as timing for the June meeting (typically Father's Day weekend), the board discussed possible dates and adjustments. Jason made a motion to set the annual meeting for June 3 at 5:30 pm, with the regular (May) board meeting to follow, and to move the June board meeting to June 24 at 6 pm. Betsy seconded the motion, and all approved.

f. Cornfest Parade

Carrie sent Betsy an email indicting she is willing to take over the Cornfest parade. Betsy will provide information. We do need to confirm with SP Ice that we will do this again.

g. Other Business

The equipment managers will start compiling a list of additional equipment needs. There was some discussion about difficulties in fitting players with helmets and maybe making that something no longer included; however, other board members felt that this might be an obstacle to kids playing. It will be something for future discussion. Brenda will contact Mary Suter to see if she has additional larger helmets in her inventory that she might be looking to get rid of.

h. Closed session

Stacy made a motion to go into close session at 8:34 pm. Jason seconded the motion. All approved.

An email concerning behavior of some hockey players at the rink, but not specifically hockey-team related, was discussed. No action was taken; however, players will be reminded that when they are wearing their hockey jackets, they are leaving an impression of the association and also reflecting their name.

Motion to adjourn: Jason. Stacy seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.