

CHE Annual Meeting Minutes – 2018



Date: Saturday, April 8, 2018
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: TownePlace Suites – Harmarville, PA
Presiding Officer: David L Fryer Jr, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Dave Fryer at 1:26 PM.

Roll call

Teams in Attendance, in person (15): Allegheny, Cal U of PA, Cal U of PA, Case Western Reserve, Edinboro, Indiana U of PA, Pittsburgh, Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Greensburg, Pitt-Johnstown, Penn State Altoona, Robert Morris, Saint Francis, Saint Vincent, Wooster

Teams in Attendance, online (7): Buffalo, Delaware, Liberty, Mercyhurst, Navy, RIT, West Chester

Teams Missing (3): Fredonia State, Maryland, Penn State Behrend

The Commissioner asked that any team with a change in their primary contact, head coach, and/or game scheduler send him an email within the next few days with the updated contact information.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Commissioner noted that the header of the minutes needs to change the word “Agenda” to “Minutes.”

Motion: Approve the meeting minutes, by Pitt-Johnstown, second by Robert Morris

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 23-0-0

GENERAL ORDERS

Financial Report

The Commissioner presented and explained the Profit & Loss Statement. All outstanding dues are accounted for, and all but one outgoing payment has been made, as of today. The outstanding payment was an unexpected bill of \$400 for the website, but that amount is still accounted for in the P&L. The league was under budget in all areas except League Operations, which was over by only \$5.37 due to that unexpected bill.

The Commissioner explained why playoff admissions were not collected this season – largely due to the burden of obtaining admissions staffing and then essentially paying that staffing what they collect. The Commissioner felt this was a wise move, especially since his focus could be spent on more-productive matters during playoffs instead of managing and monitoring cash.

The Commissioner reiterated that the budget is always dependent on the total number of teams in the league and within each division. The P&L statement gives us further insight into how to properly budget and spend, which will assist in setting our 2018-19 budgets this summer.

Season Review

The Commissioner spoke about the positives of the season: improved communications, sportsmanship at an all-time high, no discipline hearings, only a few DQs for Fighting, and most teams staying in playoff races throughout the

season. Our playoff games were very competitive with very few penalties. The Commissioner also saw all but one team play this season (Wooster) and felt that helped the league in several ways. The Commissioner also added praise for the continued quality, growth, and operations of Women's Division 2, who encompass the true spirit of the CHE.

The Commissioner discussed areas for improvement. Teams withdrawing just prior to the season is something we must prevent. Registration is an ongoing project, and most of the problems stem simply from teams/individuals not doing the work on time. Our website provider was not responsive about our issues, causing some site problems. Game protocols were sporadically an issue, and again this was largely due to simple neglect. The Commissioner stated we cannot move beyond the negative stigma of club hockey if we have teams who settle for mediocrity.

The Commissioner again emphasized that we just cannot have game forfeitures. Our team leaders must be committed to having no forfeits next season, which we will address throughout the summer and season.

The Commissioner expressed concern over the disorganization in the ACHA, the loss of the NCHA, and the impact of the UNYCHL on our league. Junior hockey continues to impact us on the men's side due to the increasing number of teams, and the only way we can combat this is to recruit well and maintain an appealing level of professionalism.

Awards

The Commissioner addressed the discontinuation of individual awards from the past, but he suggested that we still consider academic awards or similar in the future. The "CHE Achievers" will remain as an important way to honor those who impacted this league on a large scale.

League Champions: Buffalo (W2), Cal U of PA (M3), Penn State Altoona (M4), and Allegheny (M5)

The Commissioner recognized several individual players earned National Awards through the ACHA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

New Governing Documents

The Commissioner first explained the purpose and process for Transitional Resolutions, as proposed in the meeting packet, as continuity to league matters and league business.

The Commissioner moved to ratify the Transitional Resolutions, seconded by Cal U of PA. Pitt-Johnstown asked for clarification on why Penn State Behrend and Fredonia State were not present. The Commissioner stated that both teams were officially moving to the UNYCHL for next season, and their CHE memberships would automatically be terminated with our expected actions today. The same applies to Maryland, which is moving its women's team back to the DVCHC. The Commissioner also clarified that any other team that was a past member of the CHE could no longer claim to have any membership benefits since the completion of these acts today will clean up any possible loose ends related to membership and membership benefits.

Motion: Approve the Transitional Resolutions, by the Commissioner, second by Cal U of PA

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 23-0-0

The Transitional Resolutions will need to be signed by the participating members of the previous Board of Directors (Fryer, Roth, Layman, Bioni, Greenway) and will be kept on file by the Commissioner. The 22 schools present and therefore acceding to Full Membership are listed in those Transitional Resolutions and in these minutes.

The Commissioner then explained the objectives and philosophy behind the Governing Documents, as well as the process needed to ratify them. The Commissioner cited three areas of possible concern: the level of administrative

input the teams truly want, the number of people who will be interested in filling the new roles, and the growth of the league causing the job of Commissioner far more involved (not full-time but no longer a small, side job).

The Commissioner also reviewed the proposed election process. The Commissioner stated that we could have a problem if a surprise candidate accepts a nomination for Commissioner. The membership acknowledged the process and confirmed that no one else will be nominated besides the incumbent Commissioner.

The Commissioner opened the floor for any friendly amendments to the proposed documents, while noting that major issues should be addressed now. None were presented. The Commissioner then moved to pass the entirety of the proposed CHE Governing Documents en bloc. There was no further discussion.

Motion: Ratify the CHE Governing Documents en bloc, by the Commissioner, second by Cal U of PA

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 23-0-0

ANNUAL ORDERS

Commissioner's Election

The floor was given to Jamison Roth to conduct the Commissioner's election in accordance with the new by-laws. Roth outlined the election process and clarified that balloting must occur regardless of the number of candidates.

Roth opened the floor for nominations. Dave Fryer was nominated by Saint Francis, seconded by Cal U of PA, accepted by Fryer. No further nominations were made. The nomination period was then closed.

The ballots were cast and counted. CCAC chose to abstain, 7 teams were only represented online, and the Commissioner has no vote in elections. That should result in 14 ballots, and Roth confirms he received 14 ballots.

Vote: Dave Fryer is reelected as Commissioner of College Hockey East, 14-0-1

Fryer thanked everyone for their support and their work in ratifying the new governing documents. In accordance with those documents, officers will now be appointed at a later date and announced to everyone at that time.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Laws

The Commissioner presented several sections of the new By-Laws for further discussion. An opportunity to make a motion for change, revision, or adjustment was allowed for each.

The membership expressed interest in removing a summer deposit of \$500. Edinboro suggested requiring an additional signature on the Membership Agreement from a financial entity within the school, as this is done by other club sports leagues. Some teams expressed concern of the difficulty of dealing with their accounting departments.

Motion: Require a 4th signature on the Membership Agreement from a financial entity within the school, by the Commissioner, seconded by Edinboro

Vote: Motion passes, 18-1-4

There was a discussion regarding the ability for online participants to vote in future elections. No motion was made, as matter needs more investigation into options to ensure fair and honest elections without large financial costs (direct and indirect). The Executive Committee shall address the matter during the season.

The Commissioner presented the “Deferred Student-Athlete Designation” rule (redshirt rule), which currently counts post-season games towards the total games and games played. The Commissioner presented some alternatives to that stipulation. In discussion, the membership supported counting playoff participation as using a year of eligibility.

Motion: any player who participates in a post-season game shall be considered to have used a season of eligibility for that year (cannot use redshirt year), motion by the Commissioner, seconded by Pitt-Johnstown

Vote: Motion passes, 19-0-4

Further discussion on the redshirt rule addressed the restriction on using the designation for more than one season. The membership felt that there were many legitimate reasons why players should be able to redshirt for multiple years at our level of play.

Motion: Remove the restriction to limit the “Deferred Student-Athlete Designation” to only one season, by the Commissioner, seconded by Cal U of PA

Vote: Motion passes, 17-0-6

Membership

The Commissioner formally announced that Fredonia State (M3), Maryland (W2), and Penn State Behrend (M3) have officially withdrawn from the CHE. Under the new By-Laws, they are no longer members of any official type due.

A few current teams are questionable for next season. If Cal U of PA fields a second men’s team, it will operate as an affiliate and not be in M4. Robert Morris will be adding an ACHA M2 team, and they will continue to field an M3 team in the CHE. If CCAC gets enough player interest this spring, we will consider putting them back into a division. Otherwise, they will operate as an affiliate team to safely rebuild.

The Commissioner said that three schools intend on applying for CHE membership. Denison wants to have a team in M4, Cleveland State wishes to put its team in M3, and Oswego State would like to have a team in W2. The formal membership process could not start until our new governing documents were in place, and the membership was in favor of continuing the process of adding all three teams for next season.

The Commissioner stated that a few other schools have inquired about forming a team and applying for CHE membership in the future. On the men’s side we have heard from Thiel and Malone, and on the women’s side we have heard from Malone, Duquesne, and Army.

The Commissioner has had conversations with Ohio State and Penn State about moving their ACHA W1 teams to W2 and joining the CHE. OSU is moving to ACHA W2 next season but may wait a year before joining a league. Penn State wants to spend at least one more season at W1 but play more W2 teams to get a better gauge of where they belong.

The Commissioner also stated he sent emails to Youngstown State and Wheeling Jesuit, but neither has responded. Carnegie Mellon has not been in contact this year, and the Commissioner feels it is best we wait another year or two with them. The Commissioner learned that W&J still advertises a team on its club sports webpage, but the team plays out of the adult league at Iceoplex.

The Commissioner announced that he intends to form a new Women’s Division 3 within the CHE due to strong interest from several existing teams in New York. There are 7 teams that have been contacted: Colgate, Cornell, Hobart WS, Brockport, Cortland, Geneseo, and Syracuse. RIT has expressed interest in moving down from W2 into this group, so it could be an 8-team division in a generally small geographic area.

Divisional Structure

The Commissioner presented a few options for next season’s divisional alignments and asked for feedback. One of the options was to combine M4 and M5 into one division. There was some support among those teams for doing

that. Edinboro expressed concern over the potential competitiveness and stated that they like the idea of keeping two divisions with those teams scheduling more non-league games against each other.

The Commissioner stated that the new by-laws call for the new teams to be accepted by the end of May and the divisions to be set in early June. CCAC's status could also change the outlook for next season since the current options only list them as being an affiliate.

Penn State Altoona acknowledged the need to move to M3 but expressed concerns about roster size and goaltending.

There are a few considerations for W2, but regardless of the structure, the Commissioner wants to determine a means of getting all teams to play all other CHE teams at least once. Neutral-site, "showcase" type weekends may be the best solution, but it will require a lot of work and cooperation to make those happen.

Scheduling

The Commissioner presented a timeline for scheduling events, including a deadline of September 1st to have schedules completed and submitted. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of communicating during the scheduling period, even if it is just to ask for more time. But the September 1st deadline needs to be taken seriously by all teams, as one team can hold up the entire scheduling process for everyone.

The first possible date for games will remain as September 15th, and every team who has tried playing earlier than that in recent years has had trouble getting registration done. With the end of the season coming later this year, the Commissioner recommended that October 1st is a better date to start the season.

The Commissioner reviewed some of the league's scheduling policies, including a single contact for each team to keep things organized and accountable. Avoiding forfeits starts with good scheduling. The Commissioner reminded teams of holiday restrictions, including Super Bowl Sunday. And he asked that host teams communicate approximate start times to the opponent, with a final start time established by September 1st.

The Commissioner emphasized the risks involved in scheduling non-CHE opponents when it comes to game commitments, game formats, insurance, and officiating. The CHE has little to no authority over non-league opponents that cancel and cause financial loss. It is important to have a contract or get clear confirmations via email.

The ACHA M3 Classic will be on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, with Cal, UPJ, and RMU being invited. IUP should get the fourth invitation since Fredonia has moved to D2, so Roth will check on that. The East Coast Showdown is also that same weekend and is a good opportunity for M4 teams to play a 3-game weekend outside of the league. And for the women, the DVCHC Showcase will also take place the weekend prior to Thanksgiving.

The Commissioner presented an initial list of "Important Dates" for scheduling. The CHE regular season will end on March 3rd this year, with options for playoff weekends on March 8-10 and March 15-17. Those later dates should allow us to secure playoff ice prior to the season instead of having to wait until January.

Technology

The Commissioner provided details about the problems we experienced this season with the website vendor. He said we had reported issues in October that did not get addressed until January and remain unresolved. We will be obtaining new vendor quotes, which could improve our options for statistics, registration, and individual team sites.

The Commissioner purchased music software for our playoffs, which he said was extremely useful. The program is called Sports Sounds Pro, and a single license was \$250. It can be easily set up for anyone to use at CHE home games

and would greatly enhance the professionalism of our games. If there is enough interest from the teams, the Commissioner will contact the company to see if a bulk discount can be provided.

Summer Goals

The Commissioner presented three goals for every organization to achieve this summer.

Uniforms (jerseys and socks, home and away) need to match for every player. Shortcomings in this area hurt our overall professionalism and only add to the negative stigma of club hockey. Each player on the roster needs to be assigned a unique number, and it is a requirement to have numbers on the sleeves or a number on the front. Do not wait to place your orders if you want them by September – order by Memorial Day.

The Commissioner is asking every team to investigate and consider stipends for their coaches. We have several coaches who are not getting paid anything. This affects the quality of your program. Paying coaches bring legitimacy, commitment, and continuity. These coaches are making a large investment in the players; the players should be willing to compensate them fairly. The goal is to consider the option; the final decision is up to each team.

Scheduling is the third goal. The Commissioner asked all teams to stay active and cooperative. Even if you do not have ice yet, please communicate that instead of not responding. Please meet deadlines and lock in your game times. If you need help, reach out to the Commissioner's Office no later than early August.

Game Procedures

The Commissioner presented several sections of the league's Game Manual for further discussion. An opportunity to make a motion for change, revision, or adjustment was allowed for each.

The current fine for a game that starts more than 30-minutes after its scheduled time due to the direct fault of either team is \$50. The Commissioner suggests that this fine money be transferred to the aggrieved team since they are negatively impacted. Several teams support this idea and feel it is the fair thing to do.

Motion: The aggrieved team shall be credited with the \$50 fine for a game which starts at more than a 30-minute variance due to the direct fault of either team, by the Commissioner, seconded by Pitt-Bradford

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 22-0-0

There was a discussion about giving a point for an overtime loss, which is not currently done. The Commissioner feels that we grant 2 points to the winner and have rules to determine who the winner is, so regardless to how we go about doing that, we declare a winner and a loser under that format. A few teams felt that the added point might have some merit, but there was not enough interest in proposing a change.

NOTES CITE A MOTION ON THE FORFEIT RULE (SLIDE 124) BUT DO NOT SAY WHAT IT WAS

There was extensive discussion about the rule on an Emergency Medical Provider. The Commissioner expressed frustration with the carelessness happening in this vital area. He stated that there are hockey rules we can debate and places for gray areas, but this cannot be one of them, for everyone's safety and well-being. Some teams asked for clarifications on how to handle situations without an EMP and who is responsible for knowing that an EMP is there. The Commissioner cited a few adjustments to the rule to help make this work better, but ultimately the host team must take responsibility and be forthcoming if there is a problem.

The Commissioner presented an existing rule that calls for a forfeit if a team does not have a registered coach for the duration of the game. It is important that we have registered and approved coaches, but there is also the possibility that the only coach gets ejected in the middle of a game. He feels a forfeit is a bit extreme, but he is looking for

suggestions on how to better handle the matter. The membership agreed that this should be looked at, but there was no viable solution presented. This item was tabled for future review.

An existing rule calls for a timeout of up to 10 minutes of the team's only goaltender is injured and another player needs to put on goaltending equipment as the replacement. The Commissioner expressed concern with the exact time limit. The new NCAA rule cites "a reasonable length of time," which the membership also feels is a better rule.

Motion: In the event a team has only 1 goaltender and that goaltender is unable to resume play, a reasonable length of time shall be allowed for the substitute to change into goaltender equipment, by the Commissioner, seconded by Pitt-Bradford

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 22-0-0

STRIKE #2 ON SLIDE 134 FOR HAVING NO GOALTENDER? WHAT DOES THE NOTE SAY?

The Commissioner is concerned that players not in uniform are on the player bench during game and causing a disruption. There is already a rule against it. Pitt-Johnstown feels that it is better to have those players near the bench and being supervised, especially at away games. A few teams felt that the coaches just need to take more responsibility in this area, and that the Commissioner has the support to fine teams that allow this to be a problem.

Motion: Remove the rule that prohibits players not in uniform from being on the team bench during games, by the Commissioner, seconded by Pitt-Johnstown

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 22-0-0

The Commissioner covered the rule regarding start times and expressed dismay at how often this is violated and neglected, despite several years of emphasizing its importance. This is another area that affects multiple teams and takes away from our professionalism due to a few teams ignoring a rule or doing as they please. There was no suggestion to change any part of the rule; the membership feels that everyone needs to get on-board with it.

The Commissioner proposed reducing the length of the intermissions since this is another rule that often seems to be ignored. The shorter time is an attempt to find a compromise. The feeling from the membership is that the original times are best, and we again need to follow our own rules.

Motion: The length of intermissions with an ice resurfacing shall be 12 minutes and without a resurfacing shall be 3 minutes, by the Cal U of PA, seconded by Wooster

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 22-0-0

The Commissioner said that the new overtime rule for playoffs was discussed a lot last season before it was created and implemented, but then we did not have to use it to see it in action. But in further discussions at playoffs, it was suggested that we still allow timeouts in overtime if the team has not yet used one in the game.

Motion: Timeouts shall only be permitted in overtime (playoffs) if a timeout was not used by the team during regulation time, by the Commissioner, seconded by Case Western Reserve

Vote: Motion passes unanimously, 22-0-0

Open Forum

The Commissioner opened the floor for any further topics or discussion items. There were none.

Commissioner thanked everyone for their time in making the meeting very productive. He stated this has been a very significant day in the history of our league, and we are now better equipped for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.