

**Helena Area Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018
6:00 pm at Helena Ice Arena**

HAYHA Board Members:

Kurt Moser – President and Squirt Rep
Sarah Garcia – Treasurer and High School Rep
Lance Wilson – Registrar
Robert Whited – Bantam Rep
Scott Petersen – Member at Large and SafeSport Coordinator
Mekell Lybbert – MAHA Rep
Judy Merickel – 8U Rep and Secretary
Ryan Lilletvedt – Vice President and PeeWee Rep

Guests:

Bob Richards – Coach-in-Chief
Jon Flynn – House League Coordinator
Barbara Doggett – High School parent
Char Nichols – High School parent and team manager
Bill Billman – High School parent
Jackie & Mike Girard – High School parents
Shawn Schroeder – Bantam Head Coach
Miranda Briggs – 8U and 10U Parent

Absent Board Members:

Justin Steckelberg – 8U Rep

Call to Order at 6:10 pm

Minutes

Lance moved to approve September 12th minutes. Robert seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Comment and High School Division

Kurt read public comment guidelines. Kurt then moved the High School Discussion up on the agenda, so we could include it during the public comment. Char, Barbara, Bill, Jackie and Mike were there to discuss a few High School concerns. Sarah Garcia voiced the following on behalf of High School division:

- They want their fourth hour of practice back that seemed to have gone away 2 years ago.
- They would like to start their season the week of Oct 15 instead of waiting until Oct 22.

- They made note that the HS division is \$7,200 in the black this year and they would like to use this money to better the team through increased practice time, possibly more home games and possibly tournament registrations.

They noted that 16U games were being scheduled at the Summit but no one in HAYHA was aware of this so there were no Helena 16U games scheduled while there.

Judy moved and Scott seconded that HS could start the week of Oct 15. Motion passed. A discussion of the 4th hour of practice ensued. Bob thought that maybe years ago coaches and players felt 90 minutes was too long and/or attendance was spotty at the fourth hour of practice so that may be why they got rid of it. The HS division players and coaches want the fourth hour back. Judy moved to give them their fourth hour back so long as they could fit it in around the current approved HAYHA practice schedule. Sarah seconded. More discussion. Jackie Girard felt that with 25 players and a young team, it would be beneficial to have the extra practice time again. Robert wondered why they weren't doing more dryland to build strength and core. Kurt said its way too late to change other division practices so HS would have to schedule early morning or add 15 – 30 minutes to their late-night practices. Judy suggested practicing some Friday nights when they didn't have games. Someone else suggested looking at some Sunday mornings. _____proposed an amendment to the motion stating that HS could schedule 10 additional practice hours in their season. Lance 2nd the amendment. Amended motion passes. Jackie and Mike Girard said thank you.

Sarah Garcia said HS had a parent meeting last night. Coaches discussed making game cuts at their discretion (only so many players can be rostered per game) and if players miss practices coaches would take that into consideration when making cuts. They will be having another parent meeting on October 22nd.

Barbara Doggett expressed that with 25 kids at the HS level your kid is sitting out at least four games. She would like the board to look at growing the game for HS kids who have committed 10-12 years. There is a question of value for your money. Kurt reminded HS that there were many years that they weren't in the black and as a board we are one organization and it doesn't bode us well to look individually at each division and compare, giving more ice time to those who make more and less to those who don't. He doesn't want to see it go in that direction. Instead we should advocate for every age division. Judy expressed that the board really wanted to see some version of a 16U team this year, even if it was just a few exhibition games, because with the numbers of players coming up through the divisions, this is an area of growing the game we need to focus on. It was disappointing to see MAHA bag the 16U division, but can we at least get a bit going on our own. This would give more kids more playing time. Char said nearly all the 16U games are at tiered regional tournaments, which can be quite expensive, but she was looking at some options. Scott also said the board discussion extensively 16U and was

in favor of having a team. Bob asked if anyone has thought about bringing back the spring HS tournament. It was fun and is another way for more playing time.

Referee-in-Chief – Rob LaChappelle

Rob said he is looking forward to the season, but he is struggling with how few refs we have in Helena. Sarah will get with Amber to talk about league rates for refs and how she wants to do payments. The board paid for the ice time for Rob to hold a USA Hockey Referee Clinic this Saturday.

Coach-in-Chief – Bob Richards

Bob reported that tryouts for Squirts and Peewees are ready to go. Evaluators have committed. He recommends Bill Shropshire to head Squirt Tryouts which includes two practices and two tryout nights. He recommended Chad Hultin head up Peewee tryouts including two practices and two tryout nights. Bob also recommended Shawn Schroeder as Bantam Head Coach and Troy Green as High School Head Coach. *Robert moved and Scott seconded approving Shawn and Troy. Motion passes.* Robert and Kurt will hand out jerseys and oversee Peewee tryouts. Ryan and Scott will hand out jerseys and oversee Squirt tryouts. Lance will provide names and jersey number list to these board members. Bill, Adam and a couple of others will divide squirts kids into two tryout groups, making sure to split the talent among each group so evaluators can make comparisons. Bob reminded the board of the October 21st CEP training held in Helena. Judy asked about House League Head Coach. Bob said he plans to make a recommendation after seeing where the kids land after tryouts. Judy wondered if it would be helpful to name a Head House Coach so they could have more than four days to plan for the first practice. Bob and Shawn said it won't be an issue. Whoever is chosen can borrow a practice plan for the first night or quickly create one.

Registrar – Lance Wilson

Lance reported 229 total registrants. 101 of those are U8s. There are 36 coaching applications.

By-Laws Amendment – Kurt

Judy motioned to approve sending the notice to amend the by-laws out to membership. Lance seconded. Motion passes. Lance printed labels and provided Kurt with labels and envelopes. Kurt will stuff and mail.

MAHA Agreement – Kurt

Kurt reported that MAHA wants us to adopt a conflict of interest policy and that it's a good idea anyways. Kurt appointed Justin to put one together to bring to the board. MAHA also asked all member cities to add MAHA as an additional insured on any board general liability policies. Finally, MAHA asked that we adopt a policy that says we are complying with affiliate agreement. Kurt is going to look further into these items.

Member Handbook – Mekell

Scott made a motion to approve the handbook with all its edits. Robert seconded. Motion passes. Mekell will send approved handbook to Robert and he will put on the website.

8U State Tournament

MAHA wanted to award the bid to us however we couldn't host it due to there being a Bighorns Home Game that Saturday night. The 8U tournament needs ice from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday and 6:00 – 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Judy asked Bob how soon to block out that weekend for next year. Bob said to email him and Stan in March to block out the first weekend in February. The 8U State Tournament will be in Butte this year Feb 2 and 3.

MAHA Update – Kurt

Kurt attended the MAHA meeting during the Summit.

- All cities must submit a travel permit to USA Hockey to play in Canada.
- They are looking at rosters this year so be sure to do it correctly.
- MAHA is looking harder at abuse of officials. Remind your parents and players that all decisions on the ice by officials are final.
- The Club Excellence Program will have a webinar tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.
- You have to do SafeSport again this year even if you did it last year.
- Discussions around tiering again.
- SportEngine does not require real-time entering, but all divisions 12U and above must enter their game information.
- The Development Camp will be Mother's Day Weekend.

Treasurer – Sarah Garcia

Sarah has been writing checks for tournaments and is expecting player reimbursements to start coming in. *Mekell made a motion that all families should register online through tournament tab on HAYHA website. In addition, all divisions submit tournament information to Lance so he can build this online registration for parents to use. Sarah seconded.* Discussion ensued. Mekell said this way team managers are running around trying to collect from parents and carrying around large amounts of money. It also gives parents and players a deadline making it easier for managers to plan. Robert said he can build an on-line tournament form for reps/team managers to submit to Lance. Lance said he can then create the tournament registration to go live on HAYHA and shut down after the rep/manager deemed deadline. *A vote was taken and motion passed.*

Sarah updated the board on the progress she's made with past due balances. After the HAYHA board sent a letter to members with past balances last month, half of the past debt has been paid. This debt stems from past season balances before the board required online registration with full payment or installments online. The letter that was sent said anyone who did not pay

would be sent to collections. *Mekell made a motion that on the 15th all those who received previous letter and have not paid will be transferred to a collection agency in a “30-day pre-collect status”. This means they have 30 days to pay collection agency before it affects their credit. If they don’t pay, they go straight to collections. Ryan seconded. Motion carries.*

Division Updates

U8: Judy reported 101 U8s have registered, 63 termites and 38 mites. The coaches will work to even that number out a bit more by moving up some experienced termites to mites. Judy asked for assistance at tomorrow night’s first practice with making sure only cleared coaches get on the ice. This is the first year that all six requirements (HAYHA application, USA Hockey number, Background Check, SafeSport, 8U Modules, CEP) have been strictly enforced by HAYHA. Robert volunteered to be there to assist with coaches. Judy will send an email to all 26 coaches this evening with Lance’s Coach Report showing who is cleared and who is not cleared to be on the ice.

Peewee: Ryan explained to the board that even though the MAHA guide says Peewees will get 16 games they are only doing a 12-game season for the Peewee A teams this year. *Robert made a motion to allow Ryan to book four more home games. Judy seconded. Motion carries.* Ryan will look to Idaho or Canadian teams to book four more home games bringing the Peewee A team total to 16 games. Ryan expects two more kids to register.

HS: Sarah expects one more high school player to register.

Squirt/House: Kurt said with the house numbers expected to be around 33 player (20 registered for House and at least 13 who do not make travel teams), he would like the board to consider allowing Jon Flynn 5 additional hours of ice to book 4 additional games. *Lance moved to give House League 5 additional hours of ice. Judy seconded. Motion carries.* Jon reported that he has been working with families to get gear, recruiting managers and locker room monitors and looking into optional tournaments. Otherwise he is in a holding pattern waiting for tryouts to end. His parent meeting will be the second night of practice, November 1st at 7:35 p.m.

Fundraisers – Cookie Dough and Raffle

Kurt talked to Amber Guge and she received the cookie dough fundraising information from Elliot’s. She is going to get it organized and out to division reps. Mekell offered to get the raffle tickets printed. She suggested the same terms as last year with the drawing held at a Bighorns game and same prizes as last year. The board agreed.

Next Meeting – November 1st 6:00 p.m. at Helena Ice Arena

Board Entered Executive Session.

Meeting Adjourned.

Signed by President: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Secretary: _____ Date: _____