

SDAHA Fall Meeting Minutes

September 16th, 2023

Attending the meeting as voting delegates were Tony Leif (SDAHA President), Dan French (SDAHA Vice President), Jeff Scheel (SDAHA Treasurer), Duke Witte (Aberdeen), Brian Reinwald (Brandon Valley), Justin Kirchhevel (Brookings), Deanna Helvik (Huron), Mark Zens (Mitchell), Nathan Sanderson (Oahe), David Bender (Rapid City), Brent Suing (Sioux Center), Adam Gorra (Sioux Falls), Todd Randall (Watertown), & Brian Wenisch (Yankton).

Also attending the meeting were Jenni Wirkus (SDAHA Executive Director), Jared Ahlberg (SDAHA RIC) Cherry Hunter (SDAHA Risk Manager), Rob Kittay (SDAHA CIC/Boys Development), Vince Foley (HS Section Director) Shane Wirkus, Brad Eggers, Ted Gibbons, Eric Sabers, Tom Gruenig, Jeremy Espland & Kris Kimber.

A Quorum was determined and President Leif called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

President Leif reviewed the agenda noting that the President's report would be moved to be included as part of the other meeting reports.

Spring 2023 Meeting minutes were reviewed and a Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by AHA to approve the minutes as written. Motion Passed!

Treasurer Jeff Scheel presented a detailed review of the 8/31/23 Year end Financials followed by a presentation of the budget for the year ending 8/31/24. A motion was made by AHA and 2nd by BISA to approve both the Financials & the 2024 Budget as written. Motion Passed! Treasurer Scheel then addressed the SDAHA fee that is charged annually by USA hockey to all registered players, coaches and officials residing in SD. This fee was increased by \$2 this season and is now at \$11. Treasurer Scheel recommended an increase again for the 2024-2025 season of \$2 and noted that this would help reduce the team assessments again for the next season. Discussion was had on historical assessments and what drives the annual amount. A motion was made by Treasurer Scheel and 2nd by AHA for an executive session. This motion passed at 9:45AM and all attendees present who were not part of the BOD exited the meeting room. At 9:55AM the BOD completed the executive session and the meeting guests were invited to return. Motion was made by BISA and 2nd by MSHA to approve the \$2 increase to the USA Hockey fee for the 2024-2025 season. Motion Passed. Treasurer Scheel reminded the BOD that \$0 from the USA Hockey fee went into the Player Development Fund for the current season and the plan for 2024-2025 is the same as SDAHA is trying to reduce the balance in that fund.

Old Business:

A Motion was made by OHA to adopt the changes to Bylaw 3.9 as composed and to change the heading of Article 3 to read Player Participation and Team Registration, motion was seconded by MSHA. SFYHA made a motion to add Location of the School District. Motion failed by lack of a 2nd. WHA made a motion to amend and to change the approval for player transfers from the

President to the full BOD. Motion failed by lack of 2nd. The BOD voted on the original By-law change motion which was approved with 12 Yes votes and 1 No.

A motion was made by OHA and 2nd by YAIA to adopt changes to SDAHA Playing Rule 4 as written. Committee Chair Nathan Sanderson reviewed the proposal as written. President Leif reviewed SFYHA 2023 Team splits and recapped their submitted proposal for splitting their teams for the upcoming season.

BISA made a motion to amend and to strike Option 2 and Option 3 from the playing rules under the Team Split Options which was 2nd by WHA. After lengthy discussion the motion passed with a vote of 9 Yes and 4 No.

SFYHA made a motion which was 2nd by RHA to change the verbiage under 4B & 4C so that the player counts reflect league skaters versus registered skaters. SFYHA requested that the verbiage be updated to: For the purpose of these playing rules, "SDAHA registered (Bantam Skaters) (V/JV Skaters) means any skater registered with USA Hockey with the intent to play on a SDAHA league level team. Motion Failed by a vote of 5 Yes and 8 No.

A vote was called on the original motion which passed with a vote of 12 Yes and 1 No.

BISA made a motion that the Playing Rule changes would be effective as of 10/1/23 which was 2nd by WHA. After further discussion on this item the motion was withdrawn by BISA.

SFYHA made a motion to delay implementation of the Playing Rules until the 2024-2025 Season. Motion failed by lack of 2nd.

Treasurer Scheel made a motion to delay implementation of the Playing rules for the Varsity/JV teams only for this season which was 2nd by VP French. After discussion, motion failed by a vote of 4 Yes and 9 No.

Break for Lunch 12:20-12:52

The meeting resumed after lunch with the following individuals no longer in attendance: Adam Gorra (Sioux Falls), Cherry Hunter (SDAHA Risk Manager), Vince Foley (HS Section Director) & Kris Kimber.

Duke Witte (AHA) gave an update from the Player Development Fund Committee regarding the upcoming camp that's being held 9/23-9/24 and also the grant applications that were received from the SDAHA Associations. Nine associations submitted grants to help with Growth & Development at the 10U and below programs. The total requested amount was \$17,500 and AHA made a motion for SDAHA to fund all of the requests. Motion was 2nd by RHA and passed unanimously. Treasurer Scheel will cut checks to the associations right away for these funds.

New Business:

Play Down Requests:

1. Sioux Center- A motion was made by SC for approval of their PWA team to play at the PWB level for the 23-24 Season. The motion was 2nd by WHA and approved unanimously.
2. Mitchell- A motion was made by MSHA for approval of their BA team to play at the BB level for the 23-24 Season. The motion was 2nd by YAIA and approved unanimously.

Varsity State Tournaments:

Motion was made by OHA and 2nd by AHA to move the Youth Varsity and Girls Varsity State Tournaments to a Thursday, Friday & Saturday format vs the current Friday, Saturday & Sunday format. Motion was approved unanimously with implementation to occur for the upcoming 2024 State Tournaments. After the motion was approved new information was received regarding Thursday night hotel availability for the current season so a new motion was received from OHA and 2nd by Treasurer Scheel to defer implementation to the 2024-2025 Season. Motion passed unanimously.

All State Selection/Voting Process:

A committee was formed after the Spring meeting to review the SDAHA All State process. This committee is recommending a couple of changes to the All State process including the number of nominations teams are allowed being based upon the league standings at the end of the season and also the selection process being conducted via zoom amongst the associations coaches at the conclusion of the season to allow them to discuss the candidates and ask questions prior to the votes being taken. The BOD of directors was in favor of the suggested changes and will move forward with them starting for this season. This program is not part of the SDAHA playing rules and the policy is currently not documented. Documentation will be made which includes the new updates and criteria and will be submitted to the BOD and HS coaches.

President Leif gave a brief Presidents report touching on the many committee meetings that have been held over the summer months and also on the NP District meeting that was just held on Deadwood and the changes to the NPD Bylaws.

Registrar Honkomp was not in attendance at the meeting but did submit a report which was included in the packet and Executive Director Wirkus recapped the report with the BOD.

Executive Director Wirkus updated the BOD on team counts and advised we are sitting very close to the same counts as last season and everyone should expect a similar schedule.

RIC Ahlberg reported that level 2 and above seminars are now online for this season while level one will still be hosted in person. There is a change to Tier I 18U rosters which can now have 22 players listed. He is working on a newer style green arm band for this season but thought the concept was well received and SDAHA saw less issues last season with young officials.

The NP District RIC notified him late summer of additional funds in SDAHA's officials account with USA Hockey that needed to be spent before the start of the new season. SDAHA decided to use these funds to offer our Level 3 and above adult officials officiating jackets that can be worn to games and during on ice warm ups. The jackets have been ordered and should arrive at the beginning of the season!

SDAHA Executive Director Jenni Wirkus reminded associations of the importance of recruiting for new/returning officials for the upcoming season to help get all of the games covered in their rink and also to help with their annual travel expenditures for officials in their venue.

VP Dan French, Discipline Chair, reminded the BOD of the video review revisions which start this season. The officials are in place that will be part of the committee for the upcoming season. BOD Members were reminded to submit any changes to their Discipline Rep to ED Wirkus no later than 10/15/23. MSHA requested that associations please have conversation with their players/coaches/membership about taunting/hazing in light of the incidents in their baseball community this summer. It was also asked that RIC Ahlberg address this with the officials to make sure they are watching for issues on the ice with players and also derogatory items coming from the stands. Following this report at 2:30PM VP French left the meeting.

Cherry Hunter, SDAHA Risk Manager, was not present for a report. President Leif noted that he had received notice last week of resignation from Cherry as she no longer had the time to continue to devote to this position. Cherry was asked to help out with this position in the interim several years ago when it became vacant and SDAHA is very appreciative of her services. SDAHA will be working to get someone appointed to this position ASAP.

Curtis Egan, SDAHA Growth & Retention, was not present for a report. Executive Director Wirkus noted that she had included an 8U Growth report in everyone's packet and it does touch on each locals membership and growth.

Mark Bukovich, Girls Player Development, was not in attendance at the meeting but did submit a recap of the Girls Development Camp and advancements for the Spring of 2023 which was included in the packet.

Rob Kittay, Boys Player Development, recapped his report which was included in the meeting packet.

Coach in Chief, Rob Kittay reviewed the coaching requirements for USA Hockey and SDAHA which were included in the meeting packet. Rob noted that associations need to continue to communicate the coaching clinic information to their coaches so they make sure it gets out to everyone so they can get certified by the 12/31/23 deadline. Rob also touched on CE credits and noted that the information is on the USA Hockey website and it lists there the coaching requirements for credits.

Vince Foley, High School section Rep, had previously left the meeting but Executive Director Wirkus updated the group that SDAHA had sent in a request to field a Combined team for HS Nationals, a Girls HS Team, and also opted in for a second HS team if an additional spot is available.

Jenni Wirkus, TSD Boys Coordinator, reported on the 6 teams that have been fielded for the 2023-2024 Season, the tournament locations and the fall qualification season. Questions were asked on TSD's mission statement, player eligibility, coaching staff/eligibility and where one could find the answers to these questions. A committee was requested to put together a TSD Guideline form. Rob Kittay & Justin Kirchhevel were present at the meeting and volunteered to be on the committee and suggested other members to be asked to include Lucas Deutsch, Mark Bukovich & Mike Hunter who are currently involved with TSD.

Matt Tobin, Sioux Falls Power, was not in attendance and no report was provided.

Rob Kittay, NP District Rep, gave an update of what's going on in the district noting that a 4th "Internal" district rep was just elected last weekend at the NP District meeting in Deadwood. This position is non-voting but allows each of the 4 NP district affiliates to have representation. Rob touched on recent discussions on improvements to the NP District Development in regards to communications, scheduling a camp roles.

Treasurer Scheel and Executive Director Wirkus gave a brief update on the Inaugural SDAHA HOF Event that was held last Spring. Nominations are being taken now through December 15th, 2023 for the Class of 2024 and everyone was encouraged to help spread the word to get nominations submitted. The 2024 event will be held at the same location, the Sioux Falls Convention Center, on April 12th, 2024.

Local Association reports were given by all 11 Delegates. Delegates discussed team counts for the 2023-2024 season, rink improvement/building information & upcoming anniversaries of their associations.

Discussion Items:

Electronic Scoresheets-President Leif noted that this was a discussion item in the Spring and SDAHA will look into potential options for upcoming seasons.

Dave Stahl Scholarships-Executive Director Wirkus noted the funds allotment for 2023-2024 is \$5500. A recap was made of registration scholarships and it was noted funds are still available if associations have members needing emergency gear or camp scholarships throughout the season

Date of Spring Meeting: Saturday April 13th, 2024 in Sioux Falls.

At 3:48PM President Leif declared that the meeting was adjourned.

